

The Sacred Blacksmith

聖剣の刀鍛冶

7

story: ISAO MIURA
art: KOTARO YAMADA



The Sacred Blacksmith
聖剣の刀鍛冶 7
ブ ラ ッ ク ス ミ ス



Volume 7

*Art by
Kotaro Yamada*

*Story by
Isao Miura*

*Character Design by
Luna*

登場人物紹介

 Character



Luke Ainsworth

A proficient swordsman who uses an unusual blade called a "katana." Pessimistic and world-weary, he runs his own smithy.



Cecily Campbell

A young lady knight who is part of the Knight Guard, charged with defending the independent trade city of Housman. Ex-nobility, she has a strong sense of justice.



Aria

The "Demon Blade" of wind. A demon "born" at the end of the Valbanill War, she normally walks about as a human woman. However, she can turn into a rapier at will.



Lisa

The assistant who lives and works at Luke's smithy. Innocent and carefree, she loves talking with everyone. She says she is only three years old.

Other Characters



Zenobia Q. Lanchester

Ruler of the Militant Nation, she wants to see Valbanill destroyed. Her people call her the Little Queen.



???

An assassin from the Crow Powers, she tried and failed to kill Cecily. Cecily asked for her release.



Evadne

A Demon Blade who can create black flame and turn into a flamberge. Belongs to Siegfried.



Siegfried

Knight Captain of the Empire. He uses Demon Pacts and keeps inhumans as pets.

あらすじ Story

聖剣の刀鍛冶 *The Sacred Blacksmith*



WELL THEN, WHAT SAY WE GET CONSIDERING THE WORLD, ELL...

SIEGFRIED HOUSMAN?

The "skirmish" pitted the Militant Nation's elite anti-Valbanill units against Siegfried's inhuman weapons--and it was no contest. The inhumans tore through the Militant Nation's soldiers like a whirlwind, killing everyone they touched. However, Cecily and Aria--along with Luke wielding his latest Sacred Blade prototype--stepped in and turned the bloody battle into a stalemate.



After seeing the Imperial Crowd Power's true colors, the Militant Nation and the Independent Trade City promptly agreed to fully aid one another in all things. Their mission complete, Cecily and Luke return to the City...



BUT MY SUBJECTS CALL ME WITH MUCH AFFECTION, THE LITTLE GEMMY

MY NAME IS TENSURA G. LANGCHESTER!

In hope of perfecting the Sacred Blade, Cecily and the others traveled to the Militant Nation for an exchange of crafting techniques. During their journey, Cecily was attacked by an assassin from the Crowd Powers. Luke saved her in time, but the incident drove home to Cecily how much stronger she must become.

Decades ago, a great war raged across the continent. Called the "Valbanill War," it saw the widespread use of powerful Demon Fats. Forty-four years later, a young lady knight named Cecily Campbell meets a mysterious blacksmith named Luke Ainsworth, and asks him to forge for her a sword.



I HAVE NO FAITH IN ANY COUNTRY THAT MAKES USE OF SO FILTHY A SYSTEM AS DEMON FATS.

After arriving at the Militant Nation's capital, Cecily and Luke split up. Cecily found a warm reception from the "Little Queen" Zenobia, while Luke faced cold rejection from the master smith and his team. To make matters worse, Luke revealed to Lisa that he is steadily losing the sight in his one remaining eye, thanks to using Lisa's demon powers. But Luke refused to give up, and in the face of both Luke and Lisa's passionate pleas, the master smith relented and agreed to help Luke.



MY VISION IN MY RIGHT EYE IS FADING.



BEFORE LONG, I'LL GO COMPLETELY BLIND.



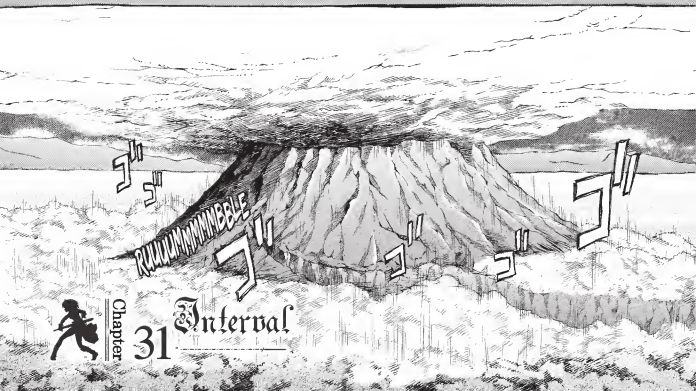
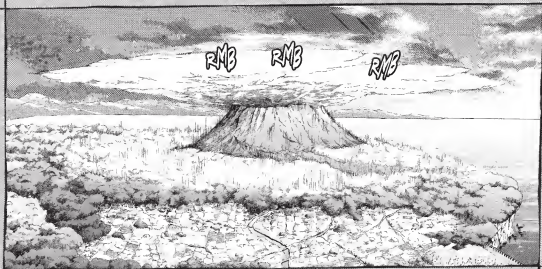
I'LL BE YOUR EYES!

LUKE

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 鍛 冶

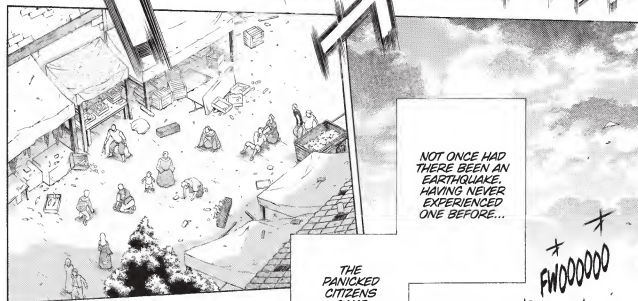
WITH NO WARNING
AT ALL, THE GROUND
BEGAN TO SHAKE.



Chapter

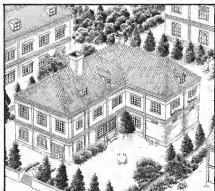
31

Interval



THIS EARTHQUAKE
MUST BE A SIGN
OF THE END OF
THE WORLD.





YOU
CAN'T
GO
NOW!

LUKE,
THAT'S
CRAZY!



Y-YES,
BUT...

THE
MEETING'S
COMING
UP
SOON!

AND
THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHY I
HAVE
TO GO
NOW.

OUR
TIME IS
ALMOST
UP.

THAT
EARTH-
QUAKE WAS
PROBABLY
AN INDICA-
TION OF HIS
GLICKENING.

SO THAT I
CAN SEE THE
ORIGINAL
SACRED
BLADE FOR
MYSELF!



I'M NOT
GOING
TO RUN
ANYMORE.

I'M GOING
INTO BLAIR
VOLCANO...

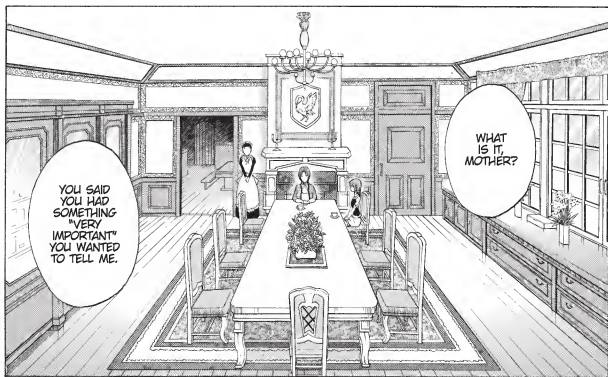


Chapter

32

Sacrifice





YOU SAID
YOU HAD
SOMETHING
"VERY
IMPORTANT"
YOU WANTED
TO TELL ME.

WHAT
IS IT,
MOTHER?

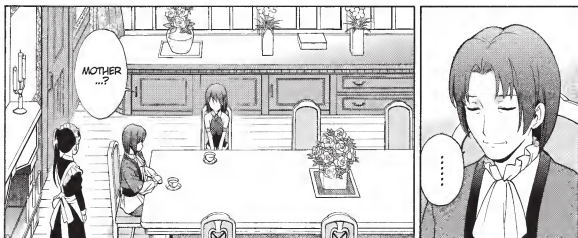


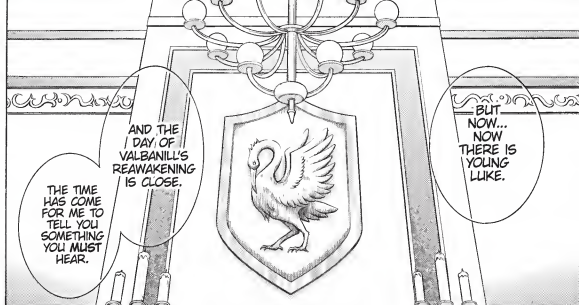
ALTHOUGH,
THE PEOPLE
WERE ALL
VERY
FRIGHTENED.

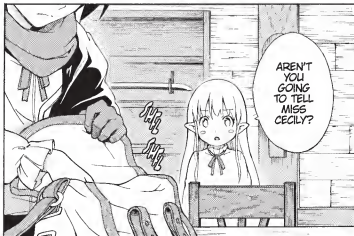
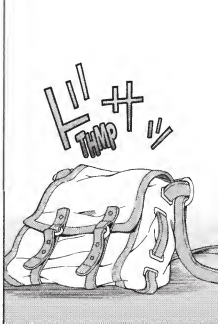
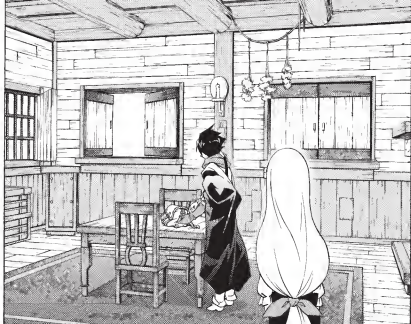
VERY LITTLE,
MOTHER.
THERE WERE
NO REPORTS
OF ANY
SIGNIFICANT
INJURIES...

WAS THERE
ANY DAMAGE
TO THE
TOWN FROM
YESTERDAY'S
TREMORS?











LUKE!!



**WHAT
IS MISS
CECILY
TO
YOU?!**







THERE'S NO WAY SHE'S ANY OF THAT.

YOU'RE NUTS.

ARE WE EVEN THINKING OF THE SAME PERSON?



IN FACT...



DO YOU SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT?

YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME...!

HER? "AWE-SOME"? HA!



SHE NEVER GIVES A THOUGHT TO HER OWN SAFETY OR GETTING HERSELF HURT. AND SHE NEVER LEARNS. SHE GOES RIGHT BACK OUT AND DOES SOMETHING CRAZY AGAIN.

ALL CECILY DOES IS PUT HERSELF INTO BAD SITUATIONS AND PRESSURE HERSELF TO DO STUPID THINGS.

BUT THAT ONLY ENCOURAGES HER TO PULL THE SAME STUNTS, OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

SOMEHOW, SHE'S NOT HALF-BAD AT FIGHTING, SO EVERYTHING MANAGES TO WORK OUT IN THE END.

THE ONLY
DIRECTION SHE
KNOWS IS
BULL-HEADEDLY
STRAIGHTFORWARD.

HER ENTIRE
MOTIVATION IS
HER STUPIDLY
INTENSE FEAR
OF SEEING
OTHER PEOPLE
GET HURT.

SHE'S
SO
DENSE.

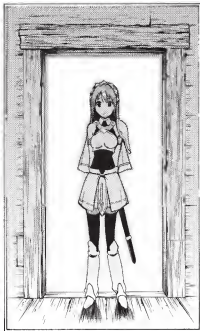
SHE
CAN'T
TAKE
A HINT
AT ALL.

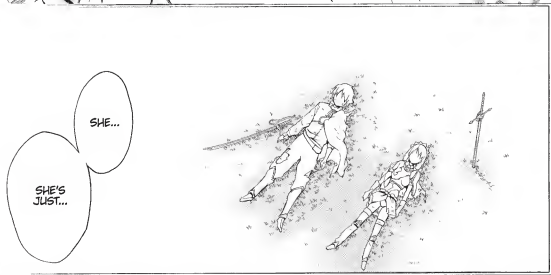


ALL
SHE
IS...

"I HEARD
THERE WAS A
BLACKSMITH
HERE, SO I
CAME TO
PLACE AN
ORDER."

"MY NAME
IS CECILY
CAMPBELL."

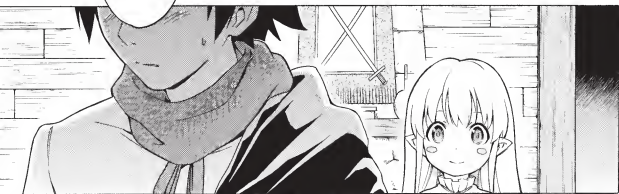


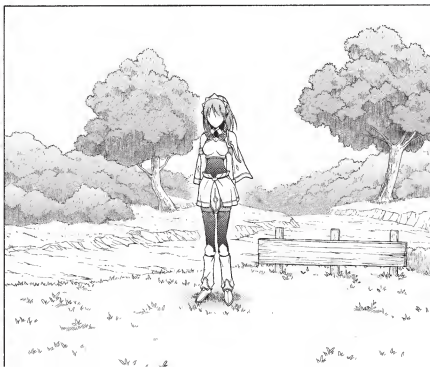
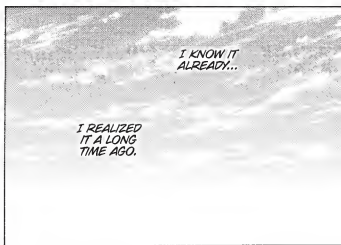


SHE...

SHE'S
JUST...







DAMMIT!
I CARE
ABOUT
HER
WAY TOO
MUCH,
OKAY?!

HI,
LUKE.



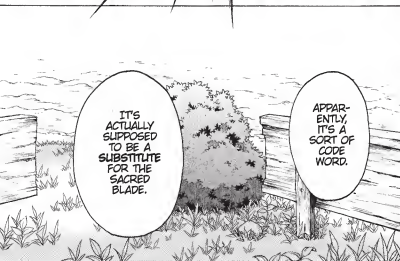
WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING?

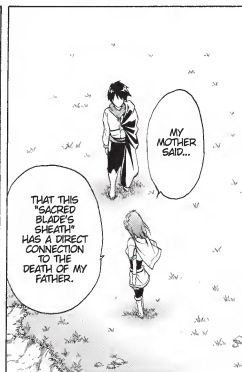
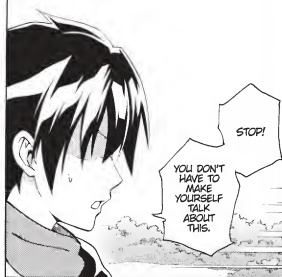
ME? WHAT
ARE
YOU UP
TO?

YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU'RE
HEADED OFF
SOME-
WHERE.











ONE
SUCH
TRIP
HAPPENED
SEVERAL
YEARS
AGO!



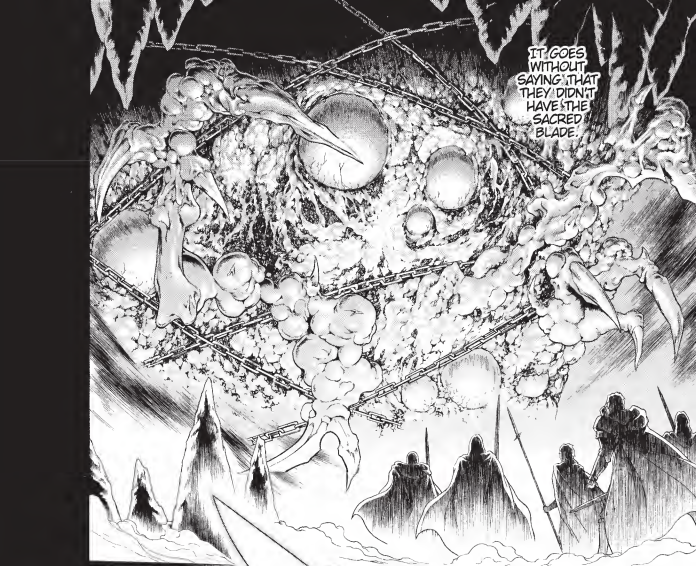
AND, MY
FATHER
WENT AS
WELL....

CHESTER
CAMPBELL.



CAPTAIN
HANNIBAL...
WHO HAD JUST
TAKEN COMMAND
OF THE KNIGHT
GUARD...
WAS THERE,
ALONG WITH
REPRESENTATIVES
FROM EACH OF
THE OTHER
COUNTRIES
ON THE
CONTINENT.

MANY
IMPORTANT
PEOPLE WENT,
FIRST AND
FOREMOST
BEING THE
ORIGINAL
HOLSMAN
HIMSELF.



IT GOES
WITHOUT
SAYING THAT
THEY DIDN'T
HAVE THE
SACRED
BLADE.

INSTEAD,
WHAT THEY
CARRIED...



THEY SAY MY
GRANDFATHER'S
DEMON BLADE
WAS EFFECTIVE
AGAINST
VALBANILL
FOR A TIME.

WAS MY
GRANDFATHER--
RIGHT-HAND
MAN TO THE
FIRST HOUSMAN
HIMSELF DURING
THE GREAT
WARS--
WHO HAD BEEN
TURNED INTO A
DEMON BLADE
BY A DEMON
PACT!!



EVEN
FATHER....!!

THEN MY
FATHER TRIED TO
USE A
DEMON
PACT!



HOWEVER...



HIS DEMON
BLADE
TRANSFORMA-
TION
FAILED.

THE GROUP
MANAGED TO
SAVE HIS LIFE,
BUT SEVERAL
OF HIS
INTERNAL
ORGANS WERE
DEVoured BY
SPIRITS, FOR
WHAT
AMOUNTED TO
NO REASON
AT ALL.



ISN'T
POSSESSING A
"DEEP HATRED
OF GOD?"
REQUIRED
FOR THE
TRANSFORMATION,
LIKE IN ARIA'S
CASE?

BUT WHY IS
IT THAT THE
CAMPBELL
FAMILY CAN
TRANSFORM
INTO DEMON
BLADES AT ALL?

BATTLES AND
SACRIFICES
LIKE THESE LIE
HIDDEN
BENEATH A
PEACE THAT
HAS BEEN
ACTIVELY
MAINTAINED
FOR THE LAST
44 YEARS...



HIS CLOSEST
FRIEND AND
COMRADE
DURING THE
WAR WAS
GRANDFATHER
CAMPBELL.

THE FIRST
HOUSMAN
CREATED THE
FOUNDATIONS
FOR WHAT
WOULD GROW
INTO THE
INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY.

AND
PLACED A
SPELL ON
THE DEATH
PHRASE
WRITTEN
THERE.

HE CARVED
OPEN MY
GRAND-
FATHER'S
CHEST...

SOMEBODY HAD
TO SERVE AS A
REPLACEMENT
TO THE
SACRED BLADE.
HOUSMAN PUT
THE BURDEN OF
THAT DUTY ON
CAMPBELL'S
SHOULDERS...

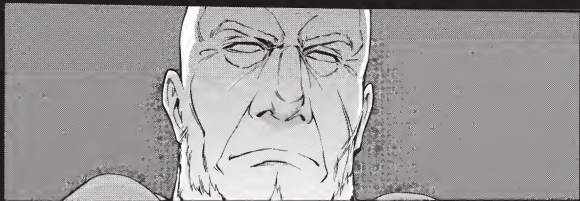
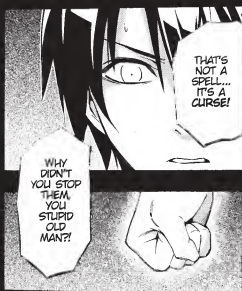


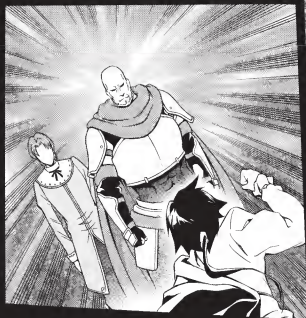


A SPELL
THAT WOULD
FORCE THE
TRANSFORM-
ATION INTO
A DEMON
BLADE...

IF HE
EVER
TRIED TO
USE A
DEMON
PACT!!







HOW
COULD
YOU
DO
THAT
TO
HER?!

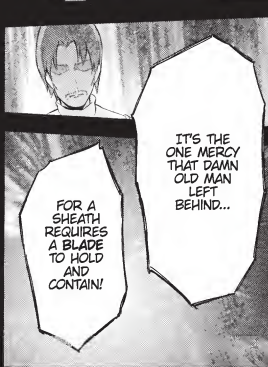




WHY DO YOU
THINK THE
SACRED
BLADE'S
STAND-IN IS
CALLED THE
"SHEATH"?

THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHY WE
NEED THE
TRUE
SACRED
BLADE,
BOY!

WHY
WOULD WE
CHOOSE
THAT AS
ITS CODE
WORD?!



IT'S THE
ONE MERCY
THAT DAMN
OLD MAN
LEFT
BEHIND...

FOR A
SHEATH
REQUIRES
A BLADE
TO HOLD
AND
CONTAIN!



THINK,
BOY!
THINK
WHAT THAT
MEANS!

THINK
ABOUT
THAT
FOR A
MINUTE!

THE
SACRED
BLADE HAS
THE ABILITY
TO CUT
SPIRITS
AND PURIFY
DEMONS...



WHEN GIVEN
THE PROPER
SWORD--
THE TRUE
SACRED BLADE--
TO CARRY,
HOUSMAN'S
SPELL WILL
BE UNDONE!



LIKE
AINSWORTH,
YOU **MUST**
COMPLETE
THE
SACRED
BLADE!!

AS BASIL'S
SON, ONLY
YOU CAN
BREAK THE
CURSE ON
CECILY!!

LIKE...

WE HAVE
BEEN
WAITING
A LONG,
LONG
TIME.

WAITING FOR
YOU TO FINALLY
CHOOSE TO
WALK DOWN
THE PATH YOU
MUST TAKE...



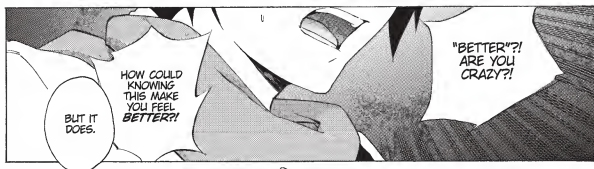
GO AHEAD,
TOSS THAT
BURDEN
ONTO ME
WITHOUT
ASKING...

DAMNED
OLD
MAN...



AT LEAST,
YOUR
GRAND-
FATHER
COULDN'T
DO THAT...

THAT SPELL
ISN'T LIKE
ARIA'S TRANS-
FORMATION.
THERE'S NO
SWITCHING
BETWEEN
HUMAN AND
SWORD
FORMS.



ESPECIALLY
IN SOMEONE
LIKE ME...?

HOW CAN
SHE
BELIEVE IN
SOMEONE
SO
EASILY?

HOW
DOES
SHE DO
IT...?



BECAUSE
THAT IS
WHO SHE
IS, I...

BUT...



SHE'S
UNBELIEVABLY
STRAIGHT-
FORWARD.
SIMPLE.
DENSE.

I
SAID
THAT

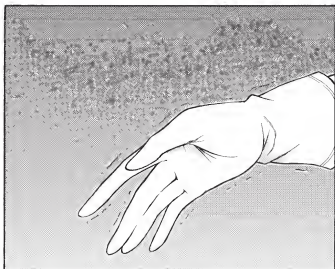


"I
CAN."



"WELL,
LIKE
AINSWORTH..."

"CAN
YOU, OR
CAN'T
YOU?"





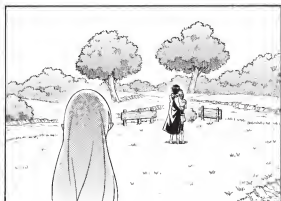


**I'LL
SAVE
YOU.**



BECAUSE...

**I
KNOW.**



**BECAUSE
YOU'RE HERE
WITH ME,
I CAN STILL
FIGHT.**



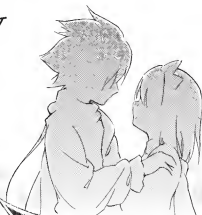


I AM
GOING
TO DIE
SOON.

IT'S JUST NOT
SOMETHING
A MAN ON
DEATH'S
DOORSTEP
SHOULD DO.

THAT'S WHY
I WILL
NEVER GIVE
VOICE TO
WHAT I FEEL
IN MY HEART
FOR YOU.

BUT I CAN
PROMISE
THIS...



THAT I WILL
GIVE WHAT
LITTLE IS
LEFT OF
MY SOUL
FOR THIS
WOMAN.

IF IT'S FOR
HER SAKE,
THEN I
DON'T MIND
DYING.





Chapter

33

No gift

SO THESE
ARE THE
"SCARS"...

LEGEND
SAYS THIS
CHASM WAS
FORMED
WHEN
VALBANILL
STOMPED ITS
FOOT IN
ANGER.

HMM.
IT'S A HARD
STORY TO
SWALLOW...

BUT I
GUESS WE
STILL NEED
TO CLIMB
DOWN
THERE TO
BE SURE.

THE
UNNATURALLY
SMOOTH
WALLS OF THE
GORGE AND
THE HIGH
DENSITY OF
SPIRIT
ESSENCE
HERE ARE
CLEAR
PROOF.

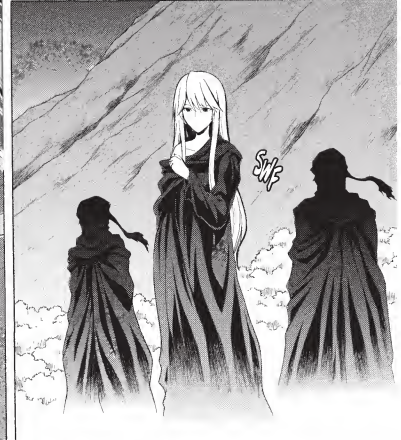
CON-
FIRMED.



KILL GOD.

LET THE WIND
BLOW
TO THE
FARTHEST
SHORES...

DESTROY
THE
DEVIL
KING.



SFX

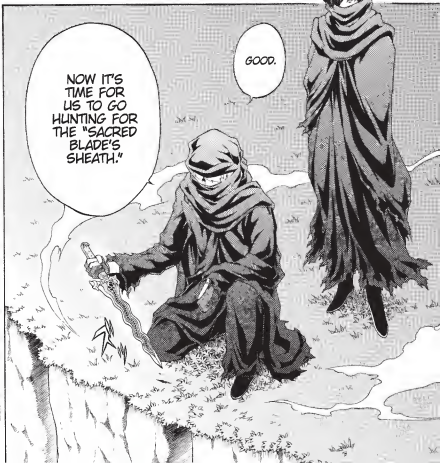


BRUSH
THE SLEEP
FROM
YOUR
EYES.



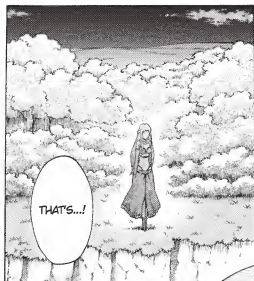
YES,
THERE'S
SOME-
ONE ON
THE FAR
SIDE.

WAIT,
LOOK!

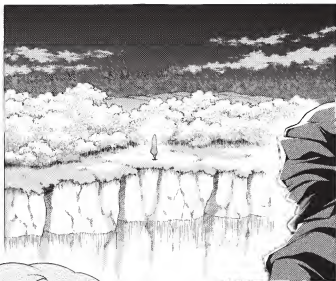


NOW IT'S
TIME FOR
US TO GO
HUNTING FOR
THE "SACRED
BLADE'S
SHEATH."

GOOD.



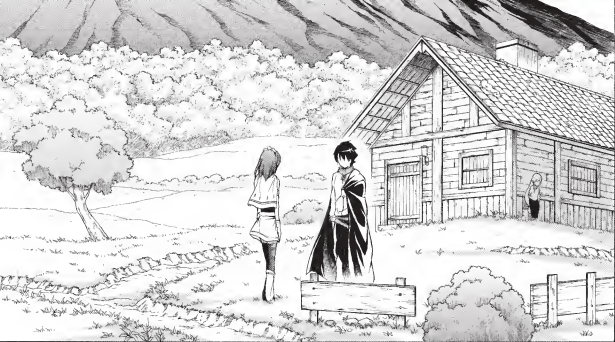
THAT'S...!



 Chapter 33 No gift

SEVERAL HOURS EARLIER...

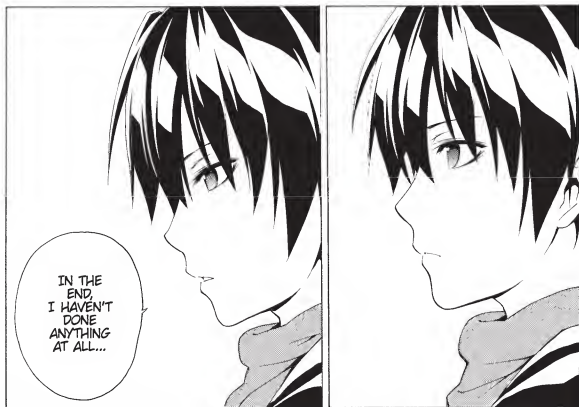


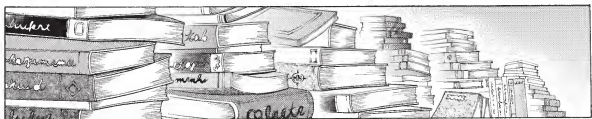
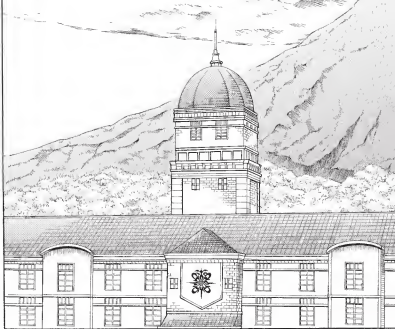
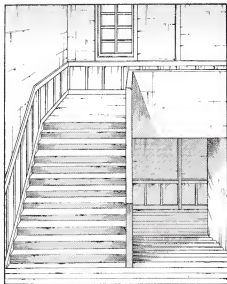




LUKE...

I'LL LEAVE
THE
FORGING OF
THE SACRED
BLADE
ENTIRELY
IN YOUR
HANDS!







IT'S AN HONOR
TO MEET
YOU!

OH!
YOU MUST
BE THAT
BLACK-
SMITH!



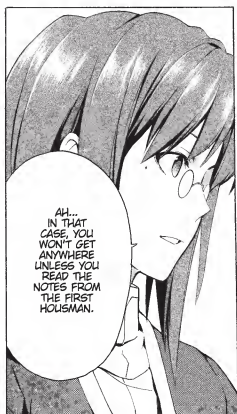
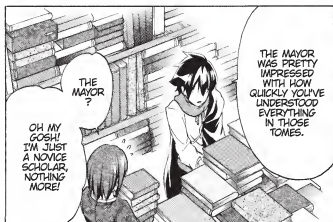
I'M
LUKE AIN-
SWORTH.

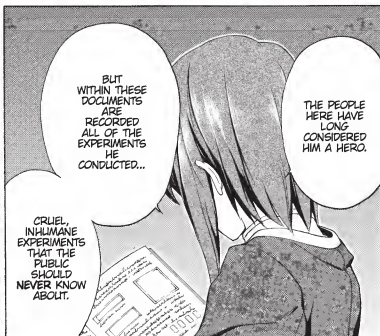
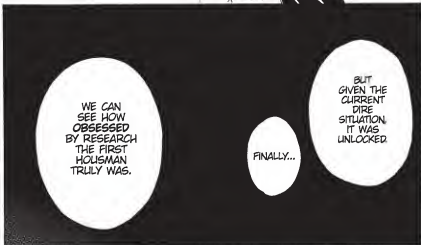
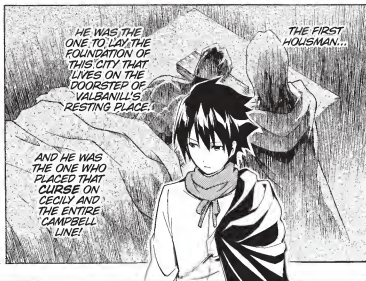
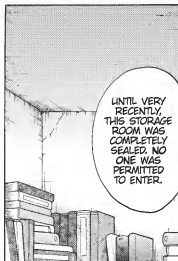


GIVEN
THEIR RECENT
AGREEMENTS, THE
MILITANT NATION
SENT HIM TO THE
INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY AS
A LONG-TERM
--IF UNOFFICIAL--
AMBASSADOR.

HIS NAME
WAS EWAIN
BENJAMIN.

ORIGINALLY
A TUTOR TO
THE MILITANT
NATION'S
RULER, QUEEN
ZENOBIA, HE
HAS DEVOTED
MUCH OF HIS
FREE TIME TO
RESEARCHING
THE
CONTINENT'S
HISTORY.







THANK
YOU,
MISS
ARIA.



HM?

WELL,
THERE'S
...

ER...
I JUST
HAD
THAT
BOOK
A
MINUTE
AGO...



AHA!
YES,
THAT'S
THE
ONE!

IS IT
THIS
ONE?



SKIPPING
OUT ON
WORK? I
THOUGHT
IT WAS
YOUR
DUTY TO
GUARD
CECILY.

THEY
KNOW
EACH
OTHER?

DID YOU
TWO HAVE
A FIGHT?



I
JUST
...

NO, IT'S
NOTHING
LIKE
THAT.



WHAT,
AREN'T I
ALLOWED
TO BE
HERE?

I WAS
BORED,
SO I
DECIDED
TO COME
HELP
EWAIN.

I DIDN'T
KNOW
YOU
WERE
HERE.



I...
I CAN'T
TRANSFORM
INTO A
SWORD
ANYMORE...

WHAT...?



ONCE I FELT
BETTER,
CECILY THOUGHT
WE SHOULD DO
SOME TRAINING
TOGETHER,
SINCE IT
HAD BEEN A
WHILE...

I WASN'T
FEELING
WELL AFTER
EVERYTHING
THAT
HAPPENED,
SO I TOOK
A FEW DAYS
TO REST.

THAT
BATTLE
WAS
REALLY
FIERCE,
AS YOU
KNOW...

IT
STARTED
SOON
AFTER WE
GOT BACK
FROM THE
MILITANT
NATION.



OKAY!

TODAY,
LET'S GET
BACK TO
TRAINING!

GOOD!
IF YOU
DON'T
MIND,
THEN--

ARE YOU
SURE
YOU'RE
FEELING
UP TO
THIS?

YEP!
I'M
FINE.

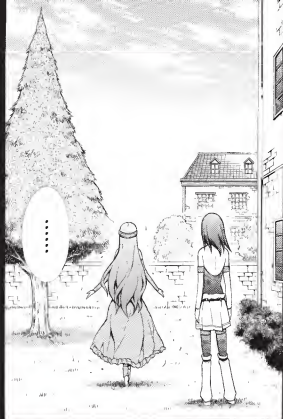
KILL
GOD.

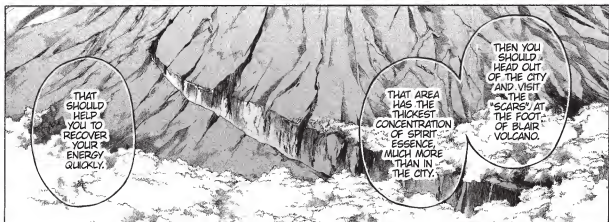
RIGHT!
HERE
GO...

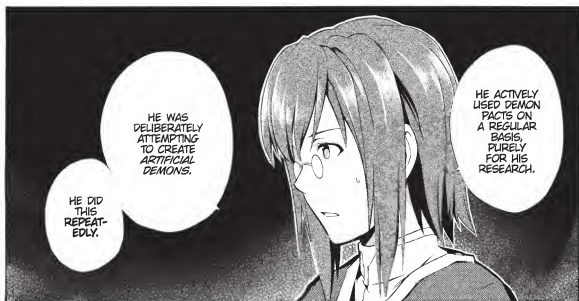
HOLD
THE
WIND IN
THESE
HANDS...

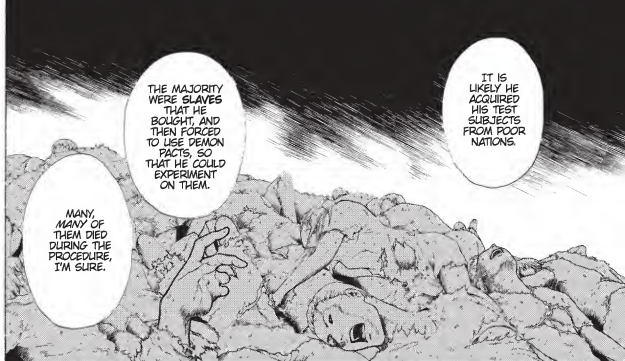
REACH
FOR
THE
TRUTH.

BRUSH
THE
SLEEP
FROM
YOUR
EYES.









MANY,
MANY OF
THEM DIED
DURING THE
PROCEDURE,
I'M SURE.

THE MAJORITY
WERE SLAVES
THAT HE
BOUGHT, AND
THEN FORCED
TO USE DEMON
FACTS, SO
THAT HE COULD
EXPERIMENT
ON THEM.

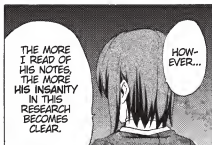
IT IS
LIKELY HE
ACQUIRED
HIS TEST
SUBJECTS
FROM POOR
NATIONS.



IT SOUNDS
LIKE EXACTLY
WHAT THE
IMPERIAL
CROWD
POWER IS
DOING NOW.



THAT'S...
TER-
RIBLE.

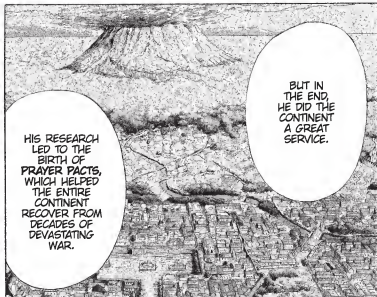


THE MORE
I READ OF
HIS NOTES,
THE MORE
HIS INSANITY
IN THIS
RESEARCH
BECOMES
CLEAR.

HOW-
EVER...

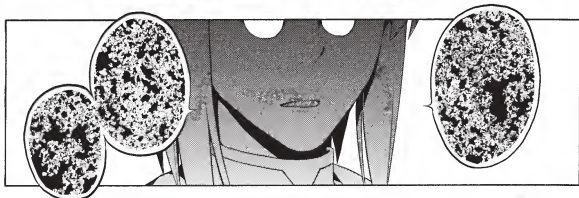


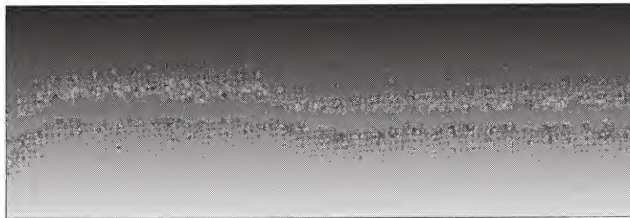
INSANITY
?

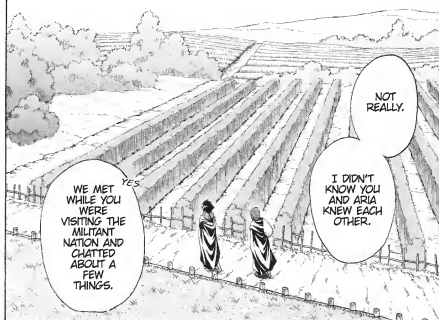


HIS RESEARCH
LED TO THE
BIRTH OF
PRAYER FACTS,
WHICH HELPED
THE ENTIRE
CONTINENT
RECOVER FROM
DECADES OF
DEVASTATING
WAR.

BUT IN
THE END,
HE DID THE
CONTINENT
A GREAT
SERVICE.







WE MET WHILE YOU WERE VISITING THE MILITANT NATION AND CHATTED ABOUT A FEW THINGS.

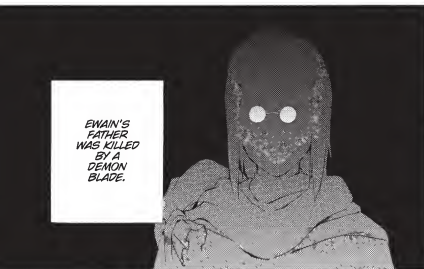
YES

NOT REALLY.

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU AND ARIA KNEW EACH OTHER.



THAT WAS AN... INSENSITIVE THING FOR ME TO SAY, WASN'T IT?



EWAIN'S FATHER WAS KILLED BY A DEMON BLADE.



AHA HA!

SCHOLARLY CURIOSITY, YOU KNOW. I JUST HAD TO MEET HER.

I'M AFRAID I PEPPERED HER AT FIRST WITH SO MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CITY AND PRAYER FACTS THAT SHE STARTED AVOIDING ME!



IT ALSO COMPLETELY CHANGED HIM.



HE WAS UTTERLY UNAWARE OF WHO AND WHAT ARIA WAS WHEN HE FIRST MET HER. LEARNING THE TRUTH SHOCKED HIM.

THAT TRAGEDY SPAWNED A HATRED OF DEMON BLADES IN HIM.

IT DROVE HIM TO STUDY BOTH DEMON FACTS AND THE HISTORY OF A CONTINENT THAT ALLOWED THEIR RAMPANT USE.



AS HE SLOWLY
BUT SURELY
BECAME
INFATUATED
WITH ARIA
THE PERSON.

ARIA NEITHER
HID THE FACT
SHE WAS A
DEMON BLADE,
NOR TRIED
TO RUN FROM
THE TRUTH.
INSTEAD, SHE
STOOD AND
FOUGHT
AGAINST IT.

ARIA'S
BRAVERY
AS A DEMON
BLADE
ERODED
EWAIN'S
DISTRUST
AND
HATRED...



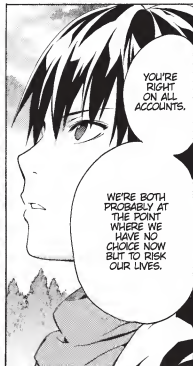
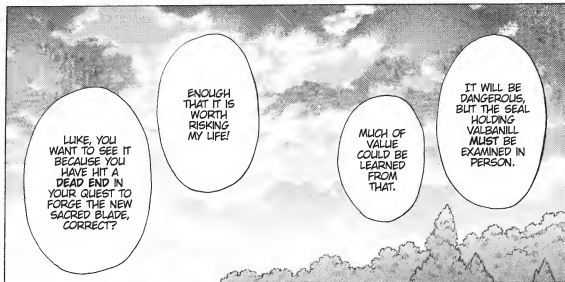
YES.

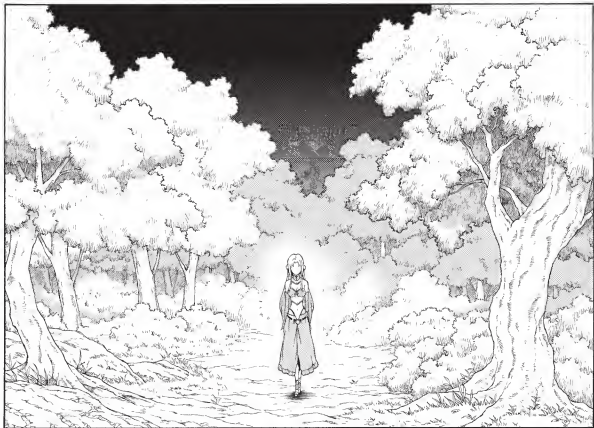
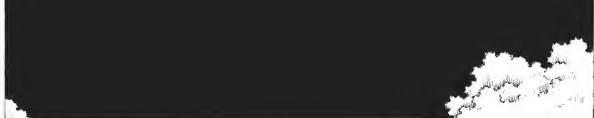
THERE'S
NOTHING MORE
THAT CAN BE
SOLVED BY
SIMPLY SITTING
IN A ROOM,
READING
BOOKS AND
SEARCHING
FOR CLUES.



SO...

YOU'RE
COMING
ALONG,
AREN'T
YOU?





THE FIRST
HOLSMAN
EXPERIMENTED
WITH CROSS-
BREEDING
HUMANS AND
DEMONS.

WHAT KIND OF
EXPERIMENT
WAS IT...?

AS PART
OF THE
EXPERI-
MENT...

IT WAS
EXACTLY
WHAT I
SAID.

YES, SOME
OF HIS WORK
HAS BEEN A
GREAT BOON
TO THE WORLD,
BUT WE CAN'T
OVERLOOK THE
ATROCITIES
HE COMMITTED.

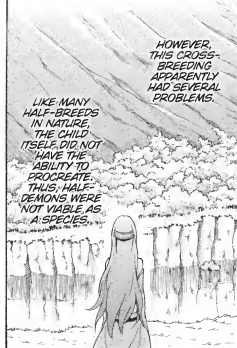
IT WAS A
HORRIBLE
EXPERIMENT
THAT TOYED
WITH LIFE
ITSELF.

AND...
THE
RESULT?

HE FORCED
A MALE DEMON
TO COPULATE
WITH A HUMAN
FEMALE.

THE WOMAN
BECAME
PREGNANT
AND
EVENTUALLY
BIRTHED A
CHILD.

ACCORDING
TO HIS
NOTES...



LIKE MANY
HALF-BREDS
IN NATURE,
THE CHILD
ITSELF DID NOT
HAVE THE
ABILITY TO
PROCREATE.
THUS, HALF-
DEMONS WERE
NOT VIABLE AS
A SPECIES.

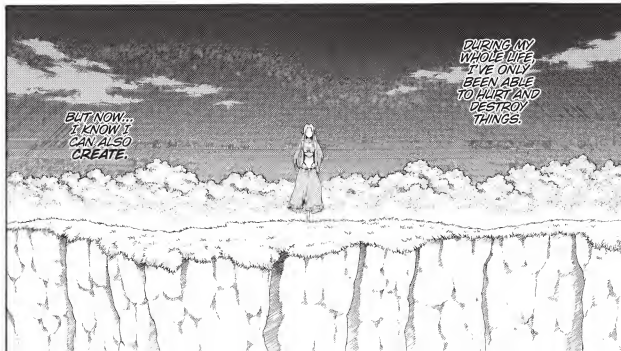
HOWEVER,
THIS CROSS-
BREEDING
APPARENTLY
HAD SEVERAL
PROBLEMS.



I'M SO
GLAD I
KNOW
THAT
NOW.

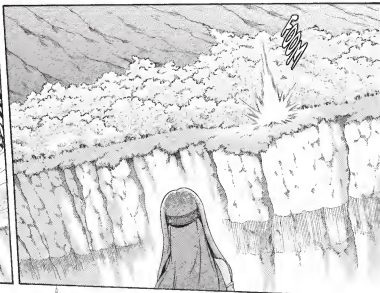
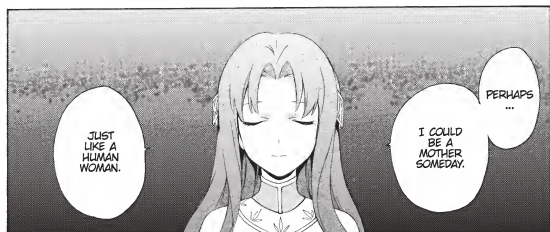


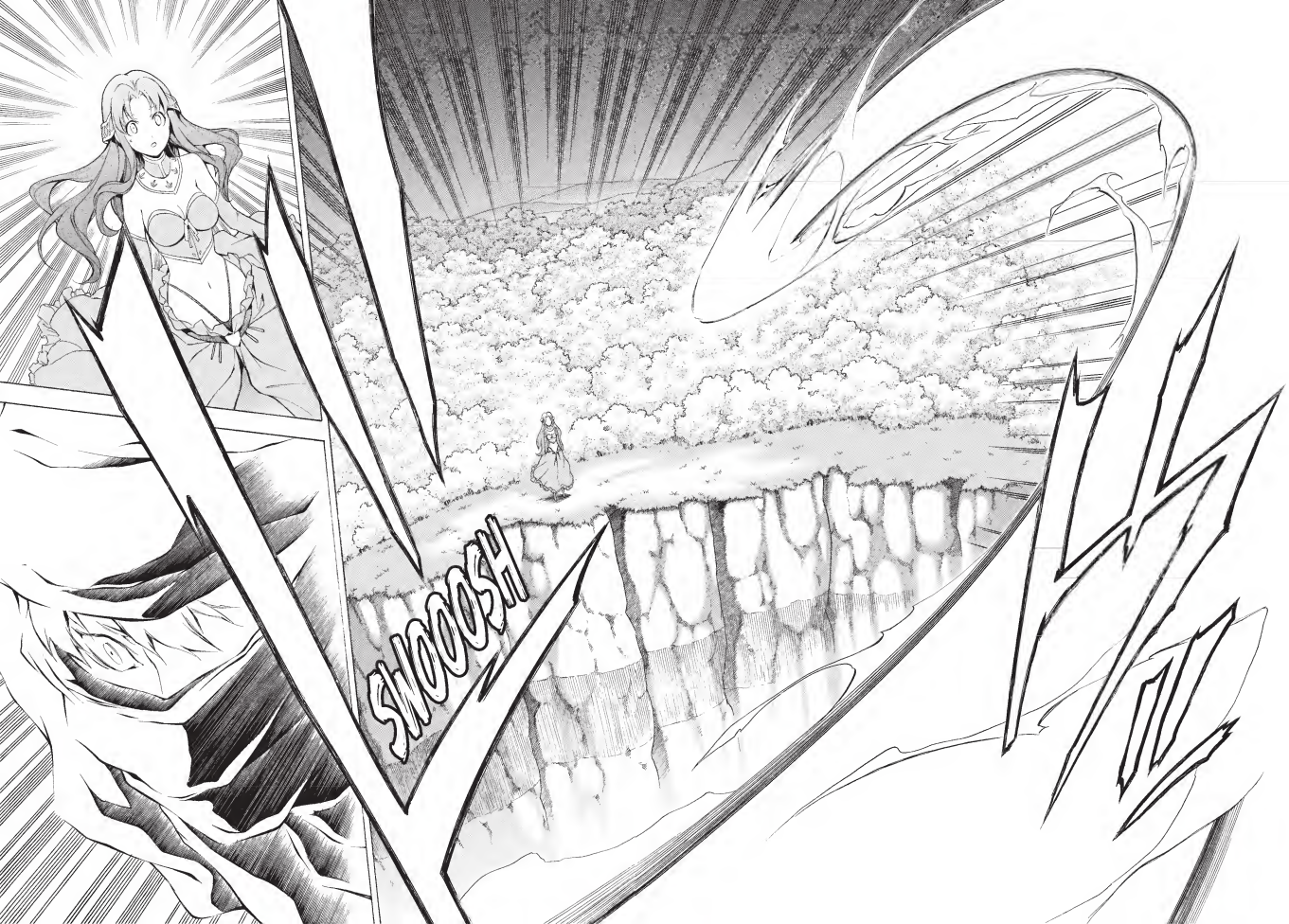
A
HUMAN
GAVE
BIRTH
TO A
DEMON
BABY.



BUT NOW...
I KNOW I
CAN ALSO
CREATE.

DURING MY
WHOLE LIFE,
I'VE ONLY
BEEN ABLE
TO HURT AND
DESTROY
THINGS.



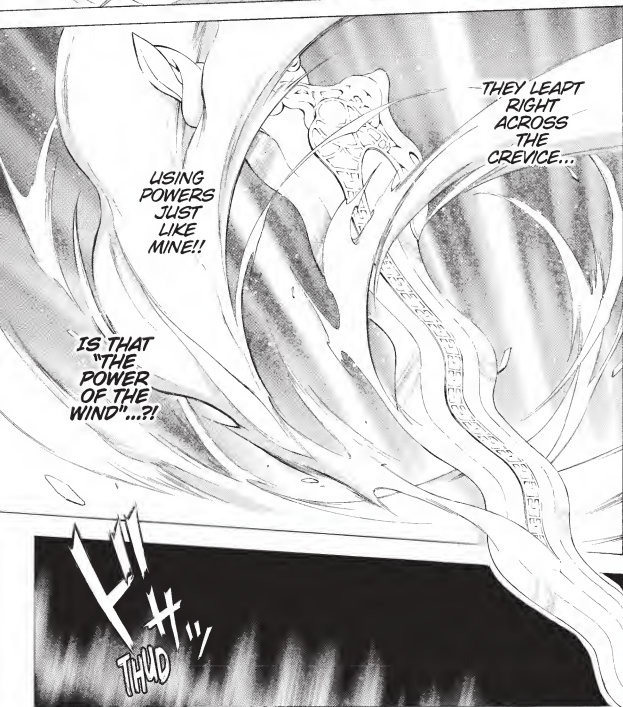


WHEOOO





WHAT?!



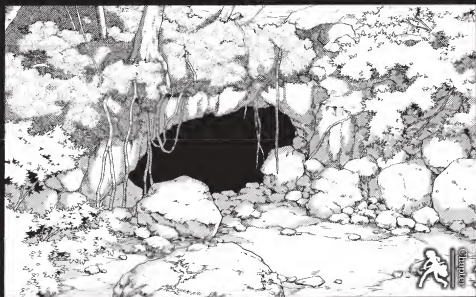
THEY LEAPT
RIGHT
ACROSS
THE
CREVICE...

USING
POWERS
JUST
LIKE
MINE!!

IS THAT
"THE
POWER
OF THE
WIND"...?!

THUD





34

Last wind
(Part 3)



I'M NOT
GOING TO
RUN AND
HIDE
ANYMORE.



I WAS
THE
ONLY
ONE TO
SURVIVE
...

I RAN,
LIKE A
COW-
ARD!

I
RAN.

ME?

JUST
ME.

ME
ALONE...



LET'S
GO.

OKAY.



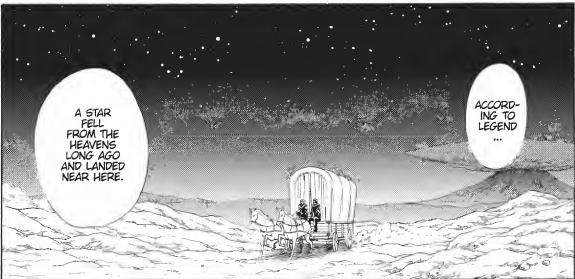
 Chapter 34 *Last wind*
————— (Part 1)

聖剣の刀鍛冶

The Sacred
Blacksmith



THE
STARS ARE
SHINING
BRIGHTLY
TONIGHT.



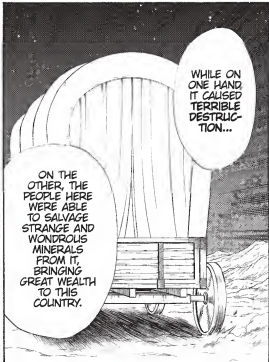
A STAR
FELL
FROM THE
HEAVENS
LONG AGO
AND LANDED
NEAR HERE.

ACCORD-
ING TO
LEGEND
...



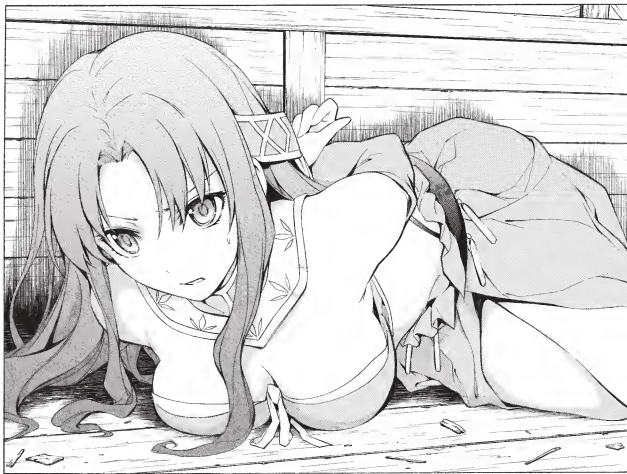
GIVING
BIRTH TO
A CULT
OF STAR
WORSHIP.

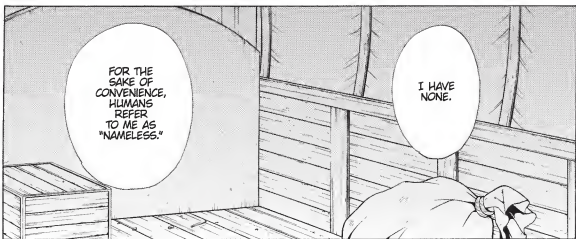
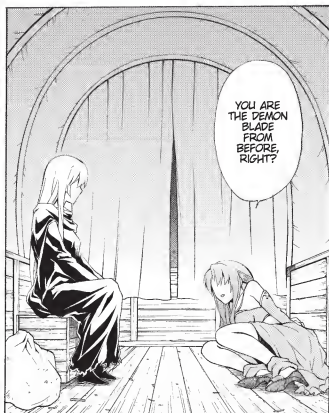
DUE TO
THAT LEGEND,
THE LOCAL
PEOPLE
BEGAN TO
SEE FALLING
STARS AS A
GIFT FROM
THE DIVINE...

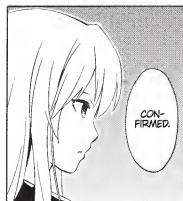


ON THE
OTHER, THE
PEOPLE HERE
WERE ABLE
TO SALVAGE
STRANGE AND
WONDROUS
MINERALS
FROM IT,
BRINGING
GREAT WEALTH
TO THIS
COUNTRY.

WHILE ON
ONE HAND
IT CAUSED
TERRIBLE
DESTRUCTION...







CONFIRMED.



FROM YOUR DARK CLOTHING,
I ASSUME
YOU'RE
ASSASSINS
FROM WHAT
USED TO BE
THE CROWD
POWERS.

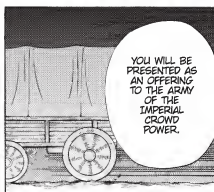
WHAT
ARE YOU
PLANNING
TO DO
WITH ME?



AND
BESIDES
...

BUT
YOU'RE
WASTING
YOUR
TIME.

I'LL NEVER
GIVE MY
POWER TO
ANYONE
BUT MY
PARTNER.



YOU WILL BE
PRESENTED AS
AN OFFERING
TO THE ARMY
OF THE
IMPERIAL
CROWD
POWER.



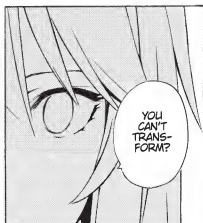
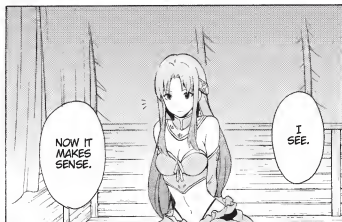
AH. I
HATE TO
ADMIT
THIS...



TOO
BAD
FOR
YOU.



I CAN'T
TRANSFORM
INTO A
SWORD
ANYMORE.





YOU ARE
REACHING
THE END
OF YOUR
LIFESPAN
AS A
SWORD.



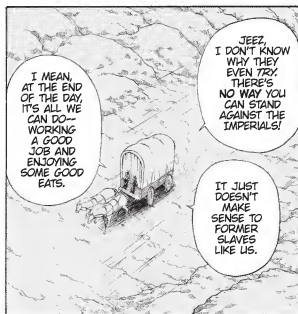
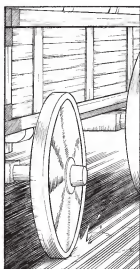


I CAN'T WAIT!

I WONDER WHAT BIG REWARD WE'LL GET FROM THE IMPERIAL CROWD POWER. I BET IT'LL BE HUGE!!

HEH
HEH...

HA
HA
HA!!



I MEAN, AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT'S ALL WE CAN DO-- WORKING A GOOD JOB AND ENJOYING SOME GOOD EATS.

JEEZ, I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY EVEN TRY. THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN STAND AGAINST THE IMPERIALS!

IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO FORMER SLAVES LIKE US.



HM...?



THIS IS EVEN BETTER FOR YOU! BRING THIS ONE IN AND THEY WON'T PUNISH YOU FOR FAILING.

OH, RIGHT. YOU TRIED TO TAKE THOSE GUYS ON ONCE BEFORE.



COULD WE PLEASE LET HER GO THIS ONCE?





YES, WHAT SHE DID WAS WRONG. BUT HER MOTIVATION WAS PURELY OUT OF CONCERN FOR HER HOMETLAND.

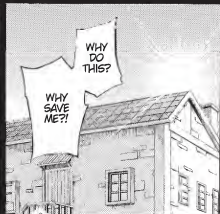
THIS ISN'T ABOUT FOLLOWING ORDERS. IT'S JUST ACTING WITHOUT THINKING.

I THINK IT IS WRONG TO AUTOMATICALLY SENTENCE THIS GIRL TO DEATH.



I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULD SAVE EVERYONE MY HANDS CAN REACH.

THAT'S JUST THE WAY I AM.



WHY DO THIS?

WHY SAVE ME?!

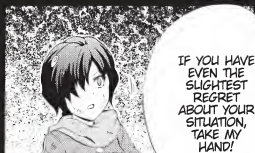


I DON'T THINK YOU DO.

I THINK YOU WANT TO ESCAPE THAT LIFE.



DO YOU ACCEPT THAT YOU ARE JUST ANOTHER SLAVE OF THE EMPIRE?



IF YOU HAVE
EVEN THE
SLIGHTEST
REGRET
ABOUT YOUR
SITUATION,
TAKE MY
HAND!



COME
WITH
US.



IT MADE
ME...
JEALOUS
OF HER.



SHE...
SHONE SO
BRIGHTLY.
I COULD
BARELY
STAND
TO LOOK
AT HER.

STANDING
THERE,
LOOKING
OVER AT ME,
I FELT
FROZEN BY
SOME
INVISIBLE
FORCE.



WHY DOES
MY HEART
FEEL SO
CONFLICTED?



oooooooooooo

WHAT
THE
HECK
?!

THE
TREMORS
ARE
GETTING
EVEN
STRONGER!

ANOTHER
EARTH-
QUAKE!!

WAH!

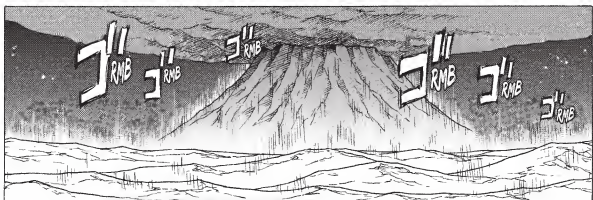
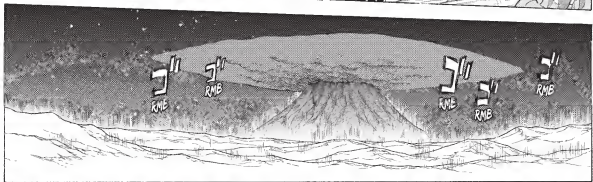
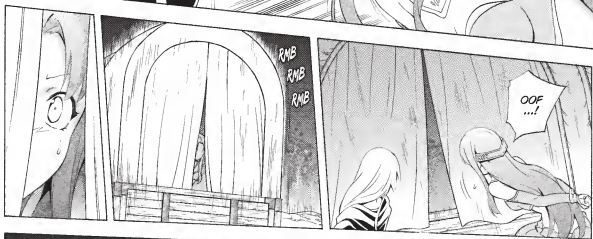
AAAAAH!!

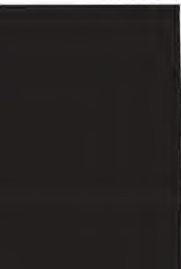
KRAK

RMB

RMB

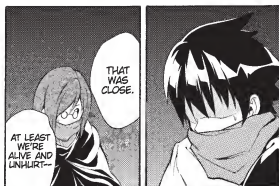
RMB

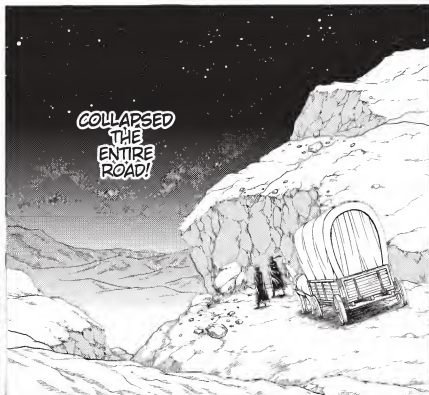
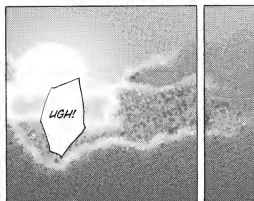
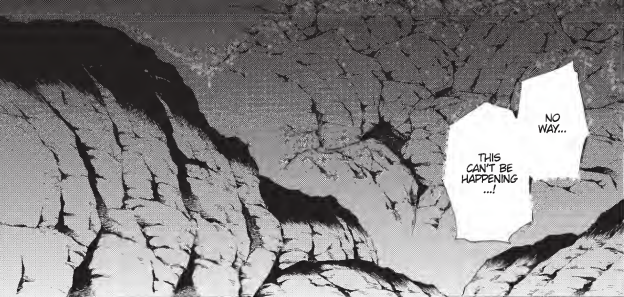


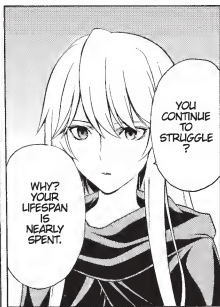
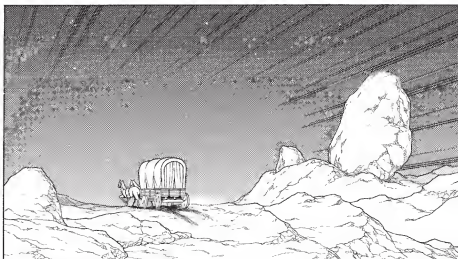


PATTER

PATTER









ARE
YOU
SAD?



BUT...
NOW THAT
SHE'S
SAID IT,
EVERYTHING
MAKES SO
MUCH MORE
SENSE.

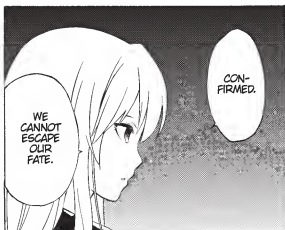
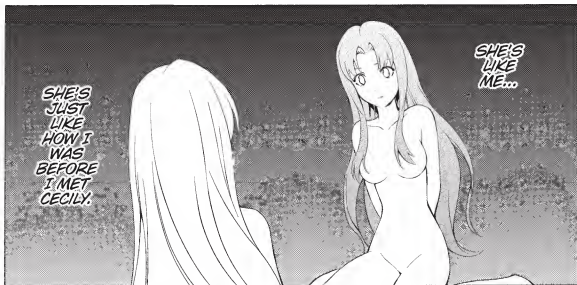
I HAD
NO IDEA
THAT I'D
PUSHED
MYSELF
THAT FAR.



I
MEAN...

THERE'S
STILL SO
MUCH I
HAVE
TO DO.

NO,
I'M NOT
SAD SO
MUCH
AS I AM
FRUSTRATED!





YOU
INSIST ON
REMAINING
DEFIANT?



YOU'VE
GOT TO
BE
KIDDING
ME.

IF THAT'S
WHAT YOU
THINK, THEN
DO WHAT
YOU WANT.
JUST LEAVE
ME OUT
OF IT!

IT'S
NOT A
JOKE.



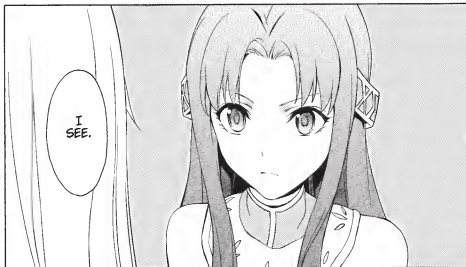
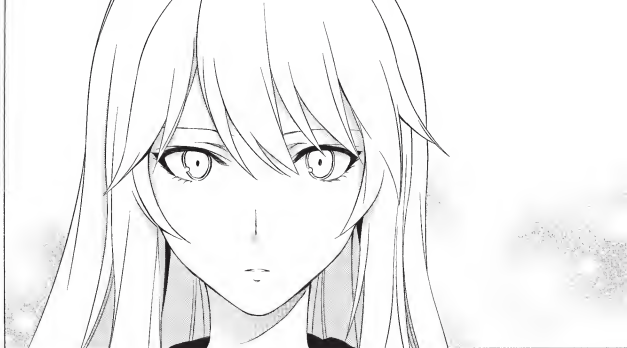
I'M
CECILY'S
FRIEND
AND
PARTNER.

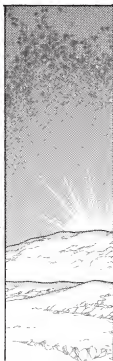
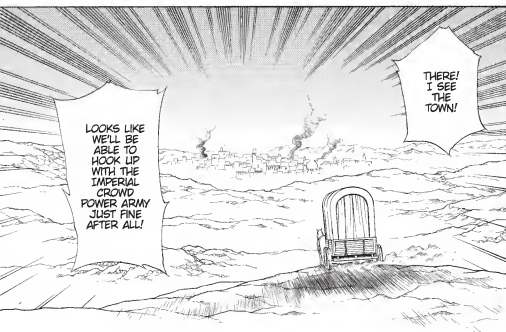
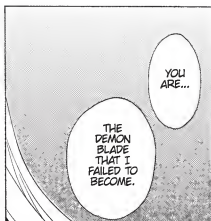
I WON'T
DISGRACE
HER
HONORABLE
NAME BY
DYING FOR A
CAUSE SHE
DESPISES!



CONFIRMED!!

IF I WILL
BE REDUCED
TO BEING A
"TOOL," THEN
I'LL SNAP MY
OWN BLADE
IN HALF,
FIRST!









I'D LIKE TO
TRY IT OUT
ON SOMEONE
WITH A
LITTLE MORE
BACKBONE
THOUGH.

I
LIKE
IT.

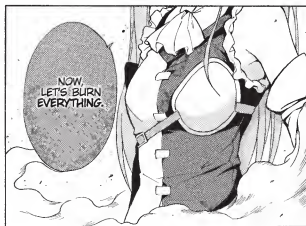
IMPERIAL CROWD/POWER ARMY
HORATIO DISRAELI



HOW
DOES IT
FEEL TO
WIELD A
DEMON
BLADE?



I KILLED
THIS
DINKY
COUNTRY'S
KING.



NOW,
LET'S BURN
EVERYTHING.





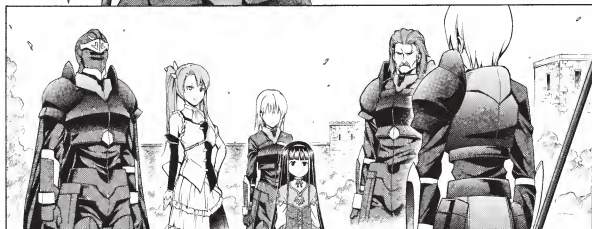
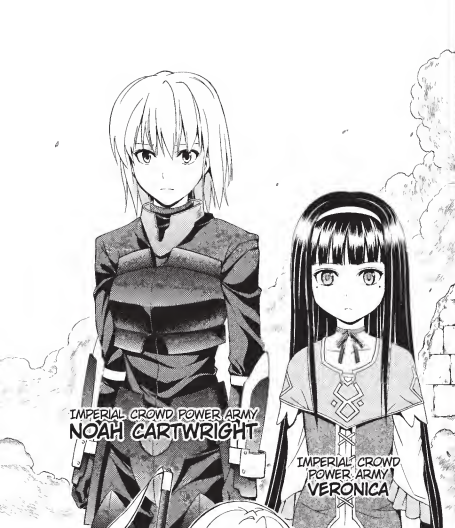
IMPERIAL CROWD POWER ARMY
GASTON BASKERVILLE

UNTIL
THERE'S
NOTHING
LEFT BUT
ASHES
AND
DUST.

RAZE IT
ALL TO
THE
GROUND...

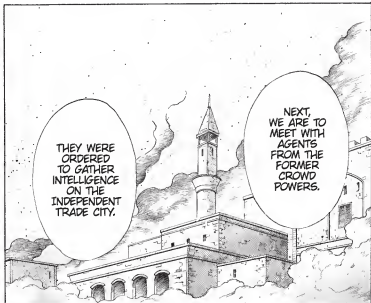


IMPERIAL CROWD POWER ARMY
ELIZA EVA



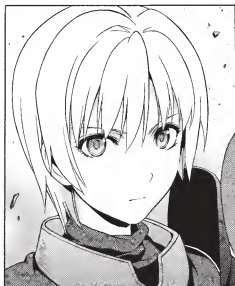


OFF
LOOKING
FOR THAT
DEMON
BLADE
AGAIN?



THEY WERE
ORDERED
TO GATHER
INTELLIGENCE
ON THE
INDEPENDENT
TRADE CITY.

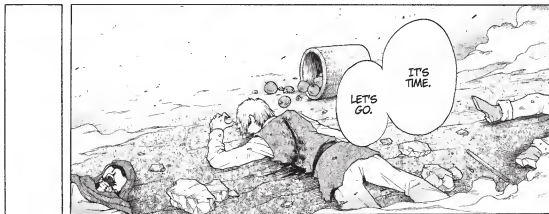
NEXT,
WE ARE TO
MEET WITH
AGENTS
FROM THE
FORMER
CROWD
POWERS.



AH WELL,
HOPEFULLY,
IT'LL BE A
GIFT THAT
LORD
SIEGFRIED
WILL
APPRECIATE.



IS IT REALLY
SUCH AN
IMPORTANT
SWORD THAT
YOU'D SEND
AGENTS
SPECIFICALLY
TO FIND IT?



LET'S
GO.

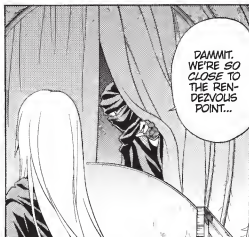
IT'S
TIME.



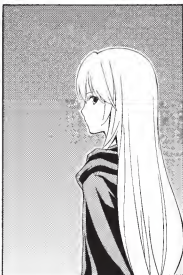
NAMELESS,
GET
OVER
HERE!



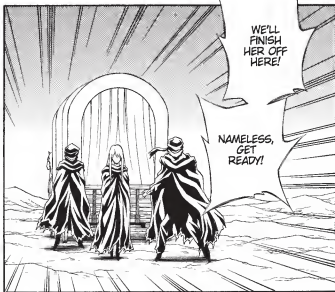
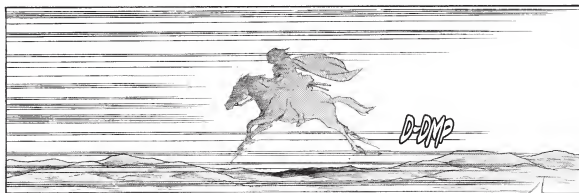
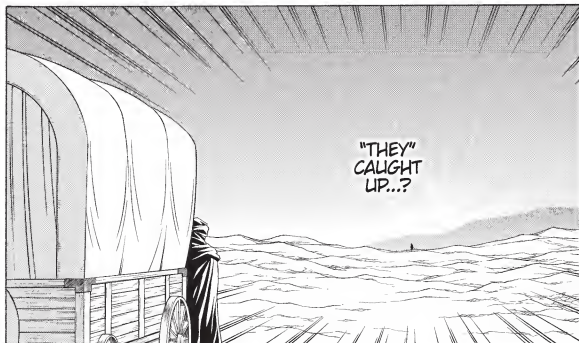
BUT
THEY'VE
CAUGHT UP
TO US
ALREADY.

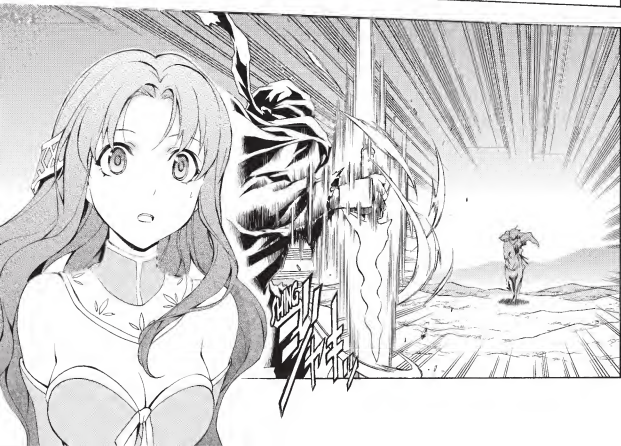
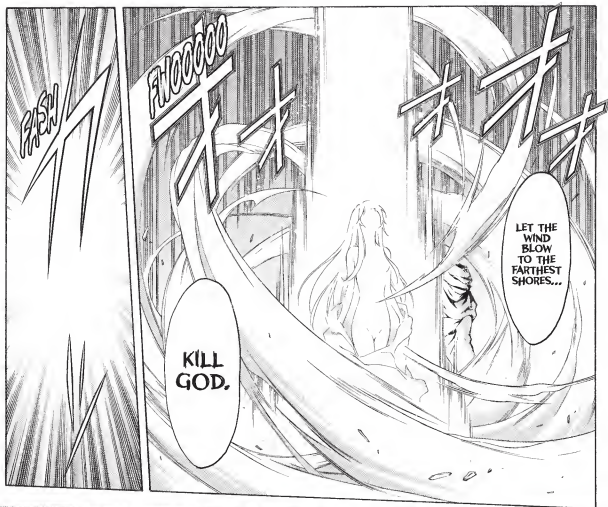


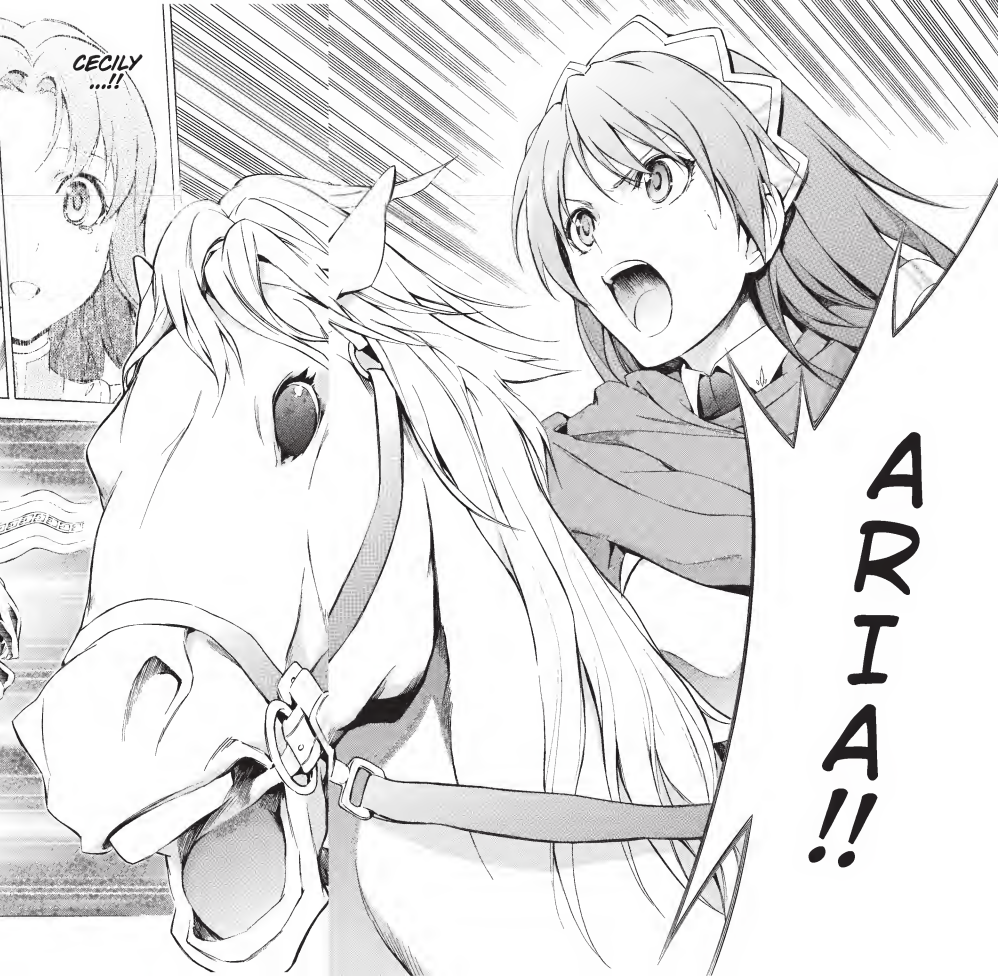
DAMMIT.
WE'RE SO
CLOSE TO
THE REN-
DEZVOUS
POINT...



WHAT
...?

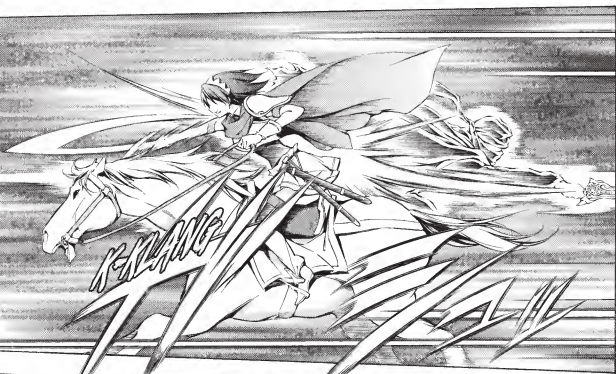






ARIA!!





IS IT
JUST ME,
OR DID THE
POWER OF
MY STRIKE
FADE
FOR ONE
CRUCIAL
SECOND?

SHE...
OVER-
WHELMED
ME...?

NO...

NGH
...!

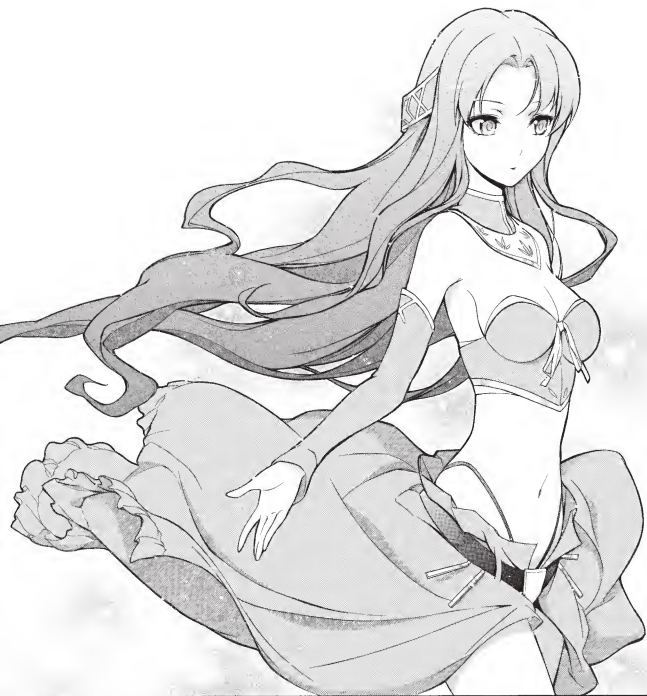


THE SHEATH
LUKE FORGED
FOR ME
DAMPENS
AMBIENT
SPIRIT
ESSENCE!
JUST BEING
NEAR IT
LESSENS
THE WIND'S
POWER!

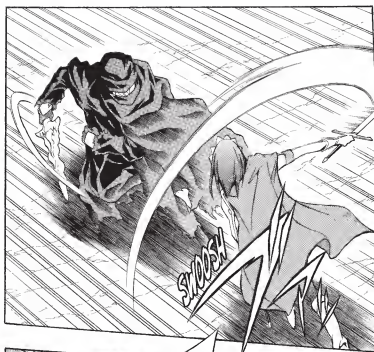
MY
SHEATH!

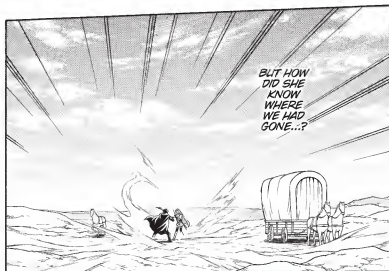


I'VE
COME
TO
TAKE
ARIA
BACK!!



 || Chapter 35 — East wind (Part 2)





BUT HOW
DID SHE
KNOW
WHERE
WE HAD
GONE...?



I NEVER
EXPECTED
SHE
WOULD
COME TO
RESCUE
ME!

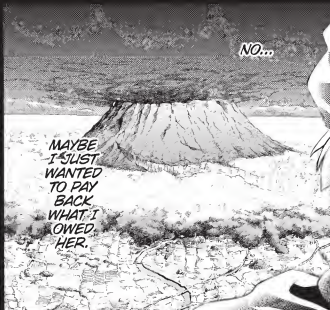
SHE'S
LIKE A
TRUE
HERO...



IT WAS
JUST A
WHIM,
NOTHING
MORE...



YOU GO
AND GET
US A
WAGON
FROM
THE CITY.

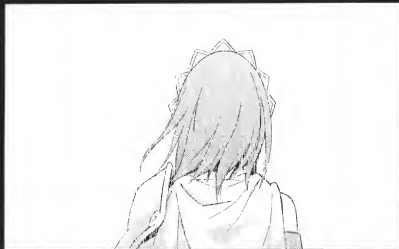


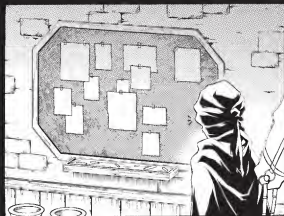
NO...

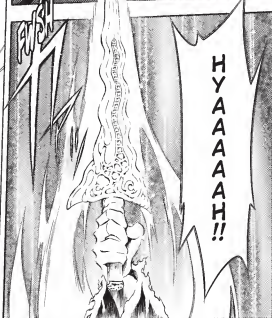
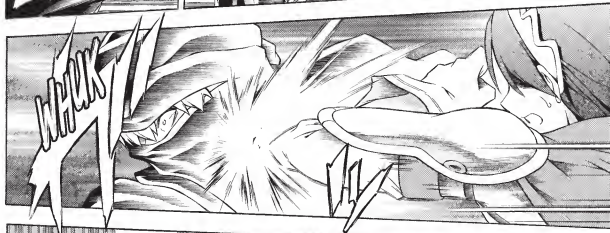
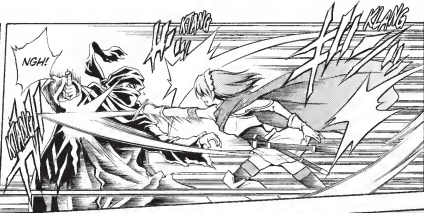
MAYBE
I JUST
WANTED
TO PAY
BACK
WHAT I
OWED
HER.



I'LL BE
WAITING
BY THE
SOUTH
GATE.









COMPARED
TO ARIA'S
WIND,
THIS IS
NOTHING!!



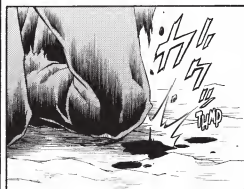
HA!
INSIDE
OF THIS
WHIRLWIND,
YOU WON'T
BE ABLE
TO REACH
ME!

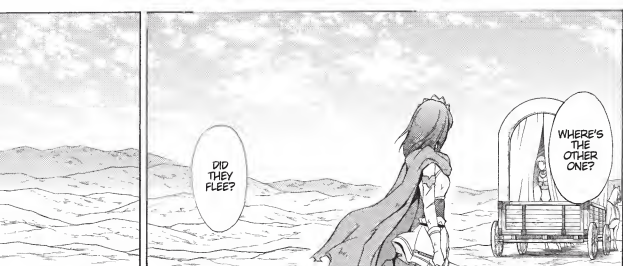
I'LL
SLICE
YOU
TO
BITS!

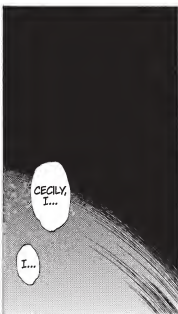
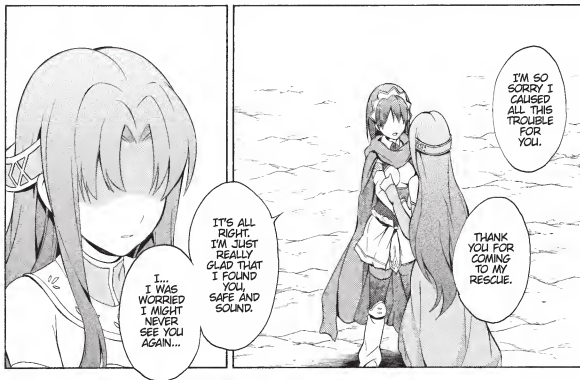


GAAAH
....!!









WHAT
SHOULD
I SAY...?

HOW
DO I
TELL
HER...

THAT I'M
REACHING
THE END
OF MY
LIFE?



ARIA...



I DON'T
CARE WHAT
ANYONE SAYS...
THE ONE TRUE
HOME FOR THE
DEMON BLADE
ARIA WILL
ALWAYS BE
RIGHT HERE,
WITH ME.

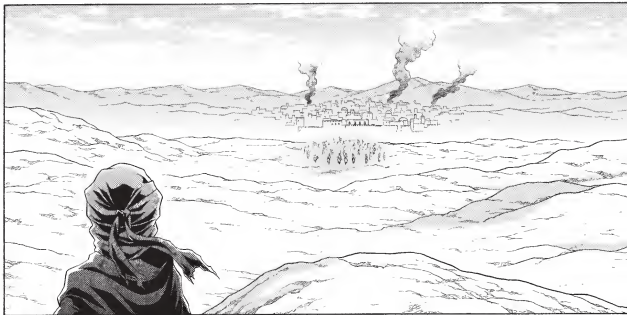
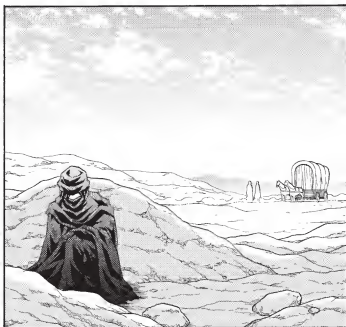
I WON'T
EVER
LET YOU
GO
AGAIN.

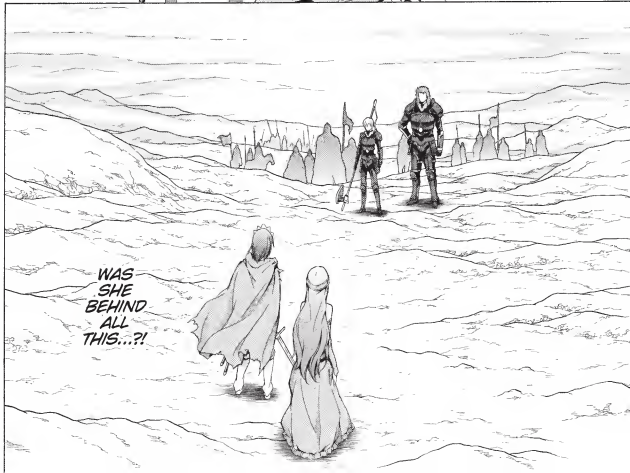
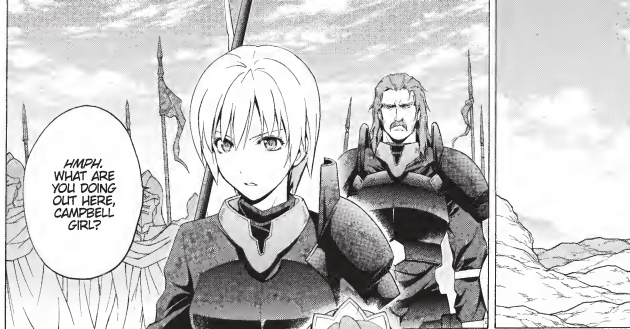


BUT
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT FOR
NOW.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
HAPPENED
...

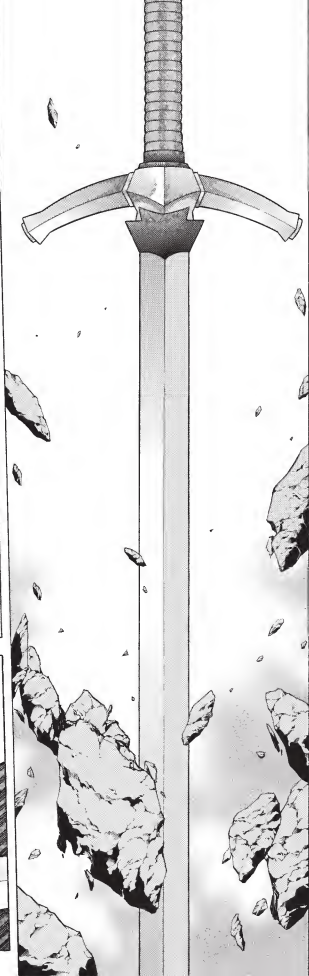
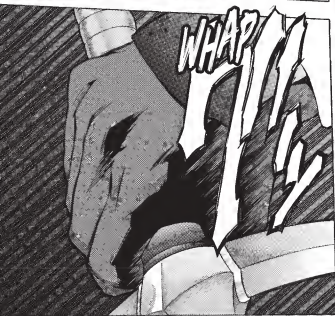
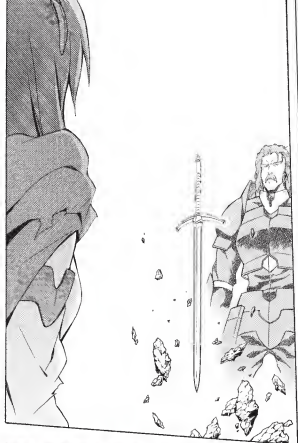




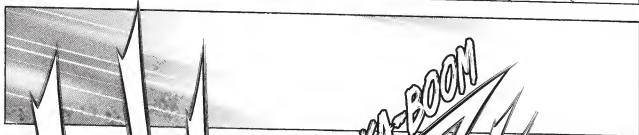


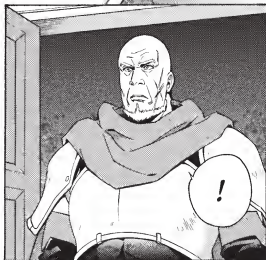
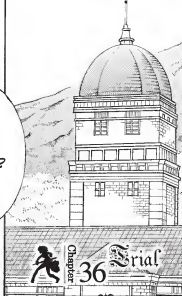
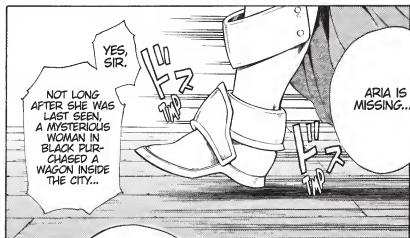














UM...
S-SIR...

IT'S
LUKE.



!

USA...?



AND I'M
REALLY,
REALLY,
SUPER-
WORRIED
ABOUT
HIM.

BUT THEN,
THERE WAS
THAT BIG
EARTH-
QUAKE...

HE TOLD
ME NOT
TO TELL
ANYONE...



WHAT
?!

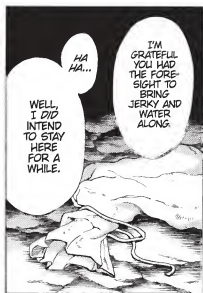
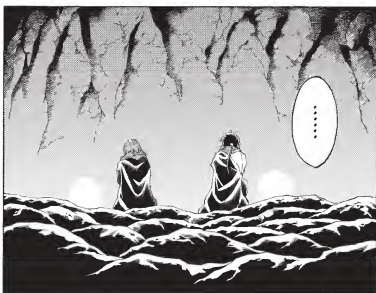
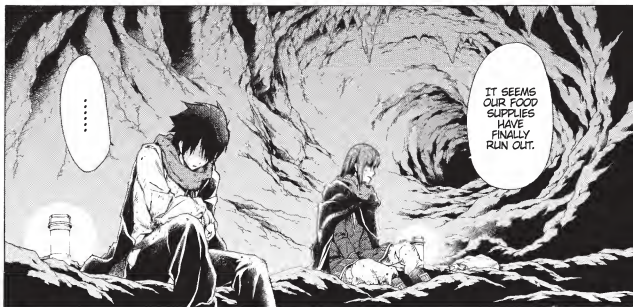


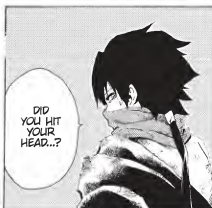
IT SEEMS
BOTH LUKE
AND EWAIN
DECIDED TO
GO INTO
BLAIR
VOLCANO
WITHOUT
PERMISSION.

AND SO...
WITH THE SITUATION LEFT MIRED IN
CONFUSION AND UNCERTAINTY...

TEN DAYS HAVE PASSED.



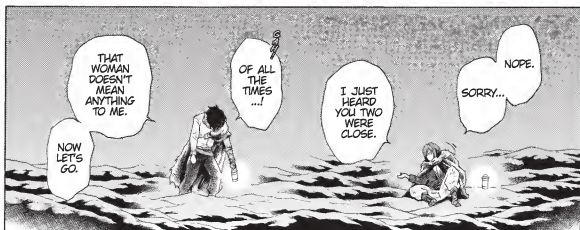




DID
YOU HIT
YOUR
HEAD...?



WHEN
ARE YOU
PLANNING
TO
MARRY
MISS
CECILY?



THAT
WOMAN
DOESN'T
MEAN
ANYTHING
TO ME.

NOW
LET'S
GO.

OF ALL
THE
TIMES
...!

I JUST
HEARD
YOU TWO
WERE
CLOSE.

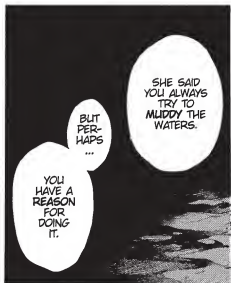
SORRY...

NOPE.



AND TRY
TO HIDE
YOUR
FEELINGS.

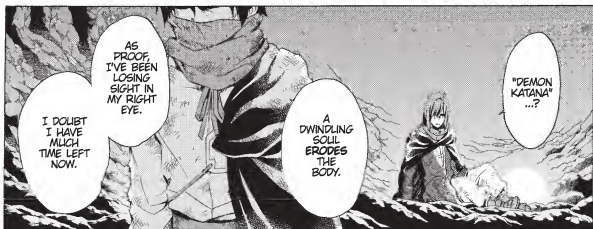
ARIA
TOLD ME
YOU'D
SAY
THAT...





THE PRICE
FOR USING
IT IS THAT IT
CONSUMES
TINY
SLIVERS
OF MY
SOUL.

IT'S MY
"DEMON
KATANA"
FORGING
PROCESS.



I DOUBT
I HAVE
MUCH
TIME LEFT
NOW.

AS
PROOF,
I'VE BEEN
LOSING
SIGHT IN
MY RIGHT
EYE.

A
DWINDLING
SOUL
ERODES
THE
BODY.

"DEMON
KATANA"
...?



HUINH.





I CAN'T SAY
I KNOW
HOW MUCH
TIME YOU
HAVE LEFT.

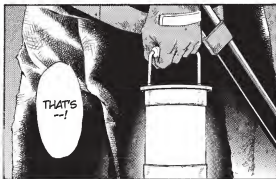
OR
BARELY
A
MONTH
...

BUT
EVEN IF
IT'S
JUST A
YEAR...



IS THAT
THE ONLY
REASON
YOU
HAVE?

I'M A
LITTLE
DISAP-
POINTED.

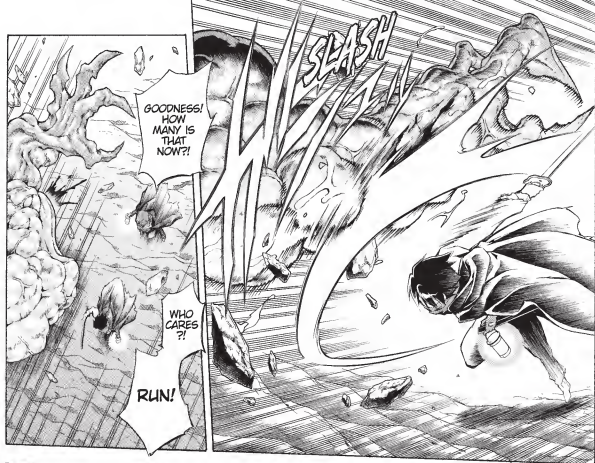


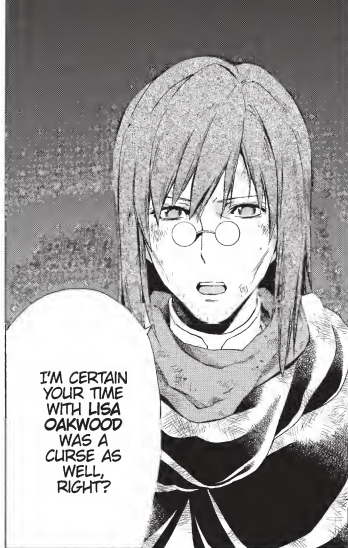
THAT'S
--!



WOULDN'T
THAT TIME
TOGETHER
BE AN
IRREPLACEABLE
GIFT TO
MISS CECILY?

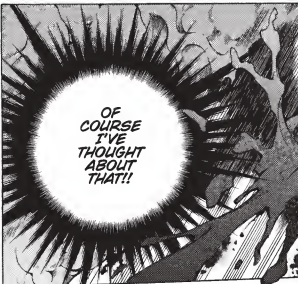












OF
COURSE
I'VE
THOUGHT
ABOUT
THAT!!



DAMMIT
....!!

SLICE



SHUT
UP!!



WHY
WON'T
YOU LET
YOURSELF
BE
SELFISH
FOR
ONCE?!



CECILY
AND I CAN
NEVER BE
TOGETHER!



I CAN'T
CHANGE
MY MIND
NOW!

IT'S
TOO
LATE!



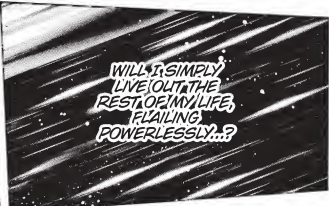
BECAUSE
I CAN'T
MAKE HER
HAPPY
FOR THE
REST OF
HER LIFE!



BUT
STILL...

I CAN'T GO
BACK NOW.
I CAN'T
CHANGE A
SINGLE
THING IN
THE PAST.

WHY
WON'T
YOU DIE
ALREADY
?!



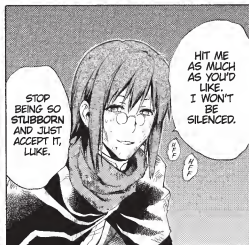
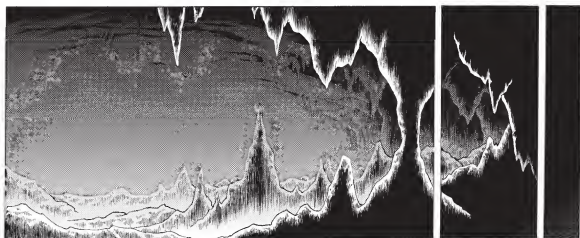
WILL I SIMPLY
LIVE OUT THE
REST OF MY LIFE
FLAILING
POWERLESSLY...?



I
WON'T
DIE FOR
NOTHING
!!!

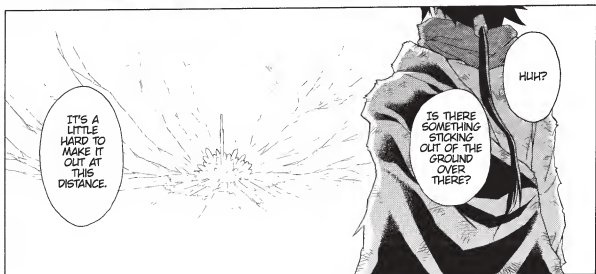


I WON'T
LET YOU
TAKE
MY LIFE
THAT
EASILY!





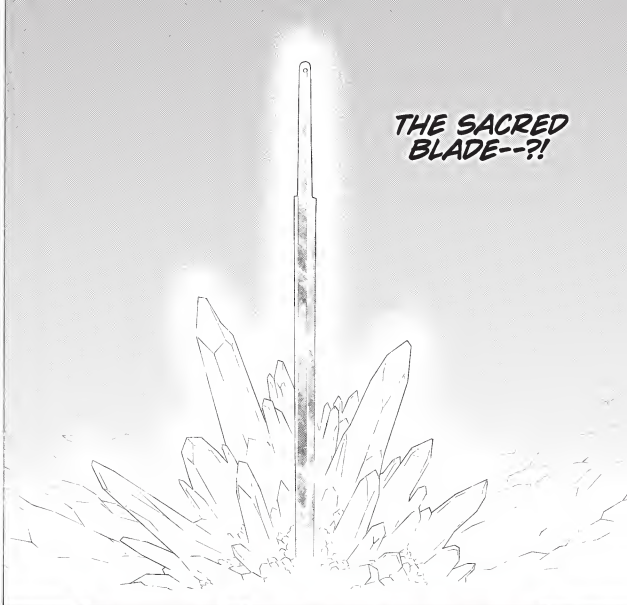




IT LOOKS
ALMOST
LIKE A
SWORD
BLADE,
DOESN'T
IT?

BUT...





**THE SACRED
BLADE--?!**



UNBELIEVABLE...

**CAN THIS
REALLY
BE IT...?!**

To be continued...

The Sacred  Blacksmith

聖 剣 の 刀 ブ ラ ツ ク ス 鍛 ミ 冶 ス

アトリエ 工房リーザ

atelier *Liza* BRANCH OFFICE EXTRA LARGE ED.

Due to high demand, this volume will bring you an extra large edition of Atelier Liza. Take a look at everyone's enthusiasm!



↑ Kagoshima, Akira



↑ Miyagi, Arli



↑ Gunma, Suzuki Monta



↑ Hyogo, Ton Ton



↑ Gifu, Mijinko

"The Luke doll(?) being held in Lisa's lap is adorable! I'd love to have one like it!"

The Sacred Blacksmith

聖劍，
刀鍛冶

山田孝太郎
死生ふかしぶり
です!!
「聖金」の刀鍛冶
毎回とても
楽しみにして持
山田先生の
きれいな
絵を度々
見ても大好き
です!
応援し続け
これから
頑張る
くださる
byウキ



↓ Aomori, Tanuki

人外使い
じんがいのつかい



手にしている笛を吹き、人外を巧みに操る
厄介な存在です。人外の重寶を被り護身用として
胸元に短剣を付けています。笛の腕は一流ですが
剣の腕は二流です
是非とも、これから出現する人外と共に戦って下さい。

↑ Fukui, Pulman

聖剣の刀鍛冶



† Shizuoka, Minomushi

I want to keep working on improving myself, so that I can see everyone's smile like this every day. That means you too, Luke! Smile!!



↑ Saitama, Hachiko

Thank you for all the great postcards! Everyone who was displayed here will receive a personalized sketch from Yamada-sensei himself! We're still accepting submissions, so keep on sending them in!

NOTE: Fan art submissions only open to residents in Japan.

The Sacred Blacksmith

Lisa's

Let's Learn Blacksmithing Corner!

Hi, everyone! It's been a while. I'm Lisa!

With the convening of the "Valbanill Meeting" and the introduction of all the VIPs from across the continent, the world that Cecily, Luke and the others live in just got a little bit bigger, didn't it? In order to make the upcoming story even more interesting, let me tell you some more about the world of *The Sacred Blacksmith*!

Class #6: The World of *The Sacred Blacksmith* ~The World~

That strange inhuman with swords sprouting from its back charged straight towards its "king." Aria, a Demon Blade, also feels an odd sense of hatred swelling up inside of her at the mention of Valbanill.

The Imperial Crowd Power (formerly the Empire and the Crowd Powers), along with the Militant Nation, use Demon Pacts--fragments of Valbanill's power--as deterrents to prevent a continental war. This is a land that lives by spirit essence, the invisible substance exuded by Valbanill.

To the City, he is "God." To the Empire, he is "Emperor." To the Militant Nation, he is the "Beast." To the Crowd Powers, he is "Machina." Known by many names, the legendary inhuman even gave his name as a pseudonym for what was formally dubbed "The War of the Pacts." Valbanill is at the center of everything in our world.

DEMON BLADES.
DEMONS. SPIRIT ESSENCE.
VALBANILL. THE WORLD OF
THE SACRED BLACKSMITH
IS HELD TOGETHER BY
TIES OF FATE THAT BIND
THOSE DISPARATE THINGS
TO ONE ANOTHER.

IN ORDER TO MAKE
THINGS THAT MUCH
EASIER TO UNDERSTAND,
LET ME EXPLAIN HOW
ALL OF THESE RELATE
TO EACH OTHER!



What is it that connects all of these things together? Once we discover what that is, it will make the story of *The Sacred Blacksmith* that much more intriguing!

Trapped in the clutches of an inescapable fate--
Curse the king or use him, the world must still live by him.

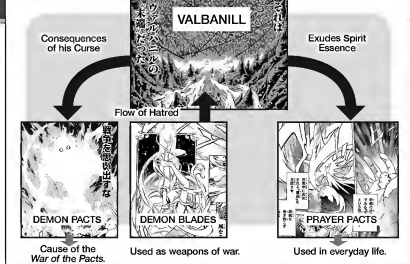


GO!

SPIRIT ESSENCE

Spirit Essence is an invisible substance, present in the air. Prayer Pacts require it to work. Demons absorb it as a source of nutrition. The source of Spirit Essence is Valbanill himself, who naturally exudes it from its prison in Blair Volcano.

IN THE WORLD OF THE SACRED BLACKSMITH, THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER CREATURES BESIDES HUMANS. LET'S GO OVER SOME OF THE ONES THAT HAVE APPEARED IN THE STORY SO FAR.



DEMON PACTS

A Demon Pact is triggered when a person chants a "Death Phrase" and makes a deal to offer a piece of their flesh to the spirits in the air. The spirits devour this flesh and initiate the person's transformation into a demon. These demons were frequently used as weapons during the War of the Pacts, but current continental law forbids their use. Death Phrases are said to be carved onto the hearts of every individual living on the continent by the same invisible spirits that are involved in the formation of Demon Pacts. In the heat of battle, priests would chant Prayer Pacts to anesthetize their victim, open their chest cavity and read the Death Phrase written on their heart. Then they would force the victim to recite it and make a Demon Pact.

DEMONS

Demons are the creatures birthed from Demon Pacts. They can take a wide variety of forms, from inanimate swords to human bodies. Both Lisa and Aria are demons. However, many mysteries still surround them.

PRAYER PACTS

A Prayer Pact occurs when a type of ore called "jewel steel" is made to resonate with the spirits in the air, causing various miraculous effects. A procedure developed by the first Housman, Prayer Pacts have a variety of uses, from powering streetlights to purifying wells to healing injuries. Given how integral Prayer Pacts are to their livelihoods, many people revere Blair Volcano--and thus, Valbanill--as a god.

DEMON BLADES

Demon Blades are weapons with special powers, created by Demon Pacts. For these weapons to have the ability to transform into humans--such as Aria and Evadne--the instigator of the Demon Pact must have a deep-seated hatred towards "God." Since most equate "God" with Valbanill, these Demon Blades have the power to fight against and even damage the creature. Accordingly, the Empire puts great effort into tracking down and collecting Demon Blades.

INHUMANS

Any creature not human is considered an "inhuman." It's a very broad identifier, where any non-human creature, from simple stray dogs up to tentacle beasts, carnivorous plants and even demons fall into this category.

VALBANILL

A legendary inhuman, Valbanill's name has even been used as a nickname for the War of the Pacts. The stories say that centuries ago, he would rage across the continent, flattening mountains, cleaving the earth and drinking the ocean dry. He was eventually sealed inside Blair Volcano with a special sword. In the present day, it is said that the seal holding him won't last for much longer, perhaps only a year...

Comprehensive Overview!

The World of The Sacred Blacksmith: WORLD SYSTEM DIAGRAM

There have been a few explanations in the main storyline already, but I have collected them all right here in one convenient location for you to read!

WE KEEP FINDING OUT MORE AND MORE ABOUT THE WORLD OF THE SACRED BLACKSMITH! THERE'S SO MUCH GOING ON... WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT? WE HAVEN'T EVEN SETTLED THE SCORE WITH SIEGFRIED YET! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT'S COMING!!

See You Next Time!

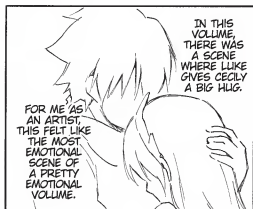


A Lazy Afterword

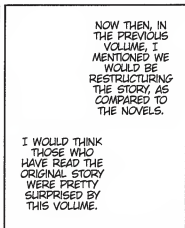
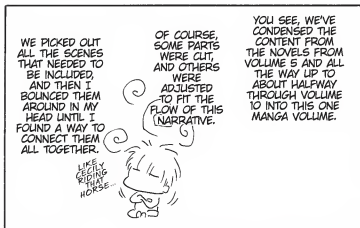
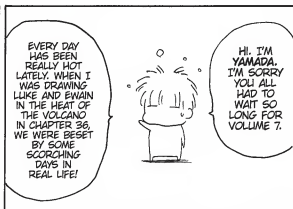
YAMADA-SAN

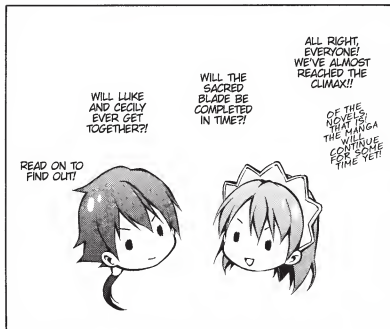
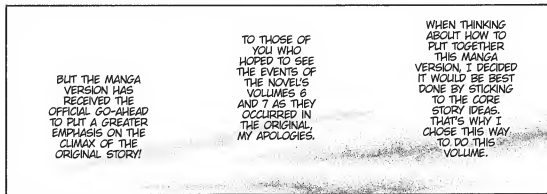
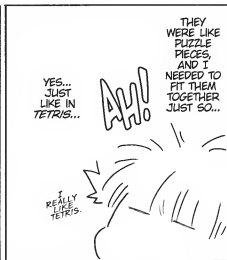
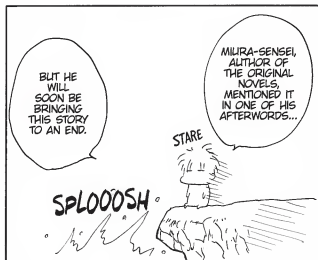


NAKAMURA-SAN



IN THIS VOLUME, THERE WAS A SCENE WHERE LUKE GIVES CECILY A BIG HUG.





SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

THE SACRED BLACKSMITH

art by **KOTARO YAMADA** / story by **ISAO MIURA**

Original Character Designs by **LUNA**

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TRANSLATION
Adrienne Beck

ADAPTATION
Janet Houck

LETTERING
Roland Amago

LAYOUT
Bambi Eloriaga-Amago

COVER DESIGN
Nicky Lim

PROOFREADER
Shanti Whitesides

MANAGING EDITOR
Adam Arnold

PUBLISHER
Jason DeAngelis

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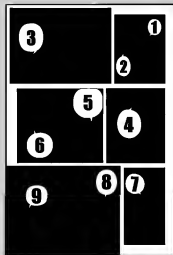
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!





THE SWORD AND THE SHEATH

Now safely home from their trip to the Militant Nation, Cecily, Luke, and the others return to their everyday lives. The Independent Trade City of Housman is soon struck with increasingly strong earthquakes, signaling that the time of Valbanill's reawakening draws near.

The pressure only continues to grow as Luke and Cecily learn of the Campbell family's secret curse: the Sheath of the Sacred Blade. Can Luke help change Cecily's destiny before it's too late?



OLDER TEEN (16+)

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